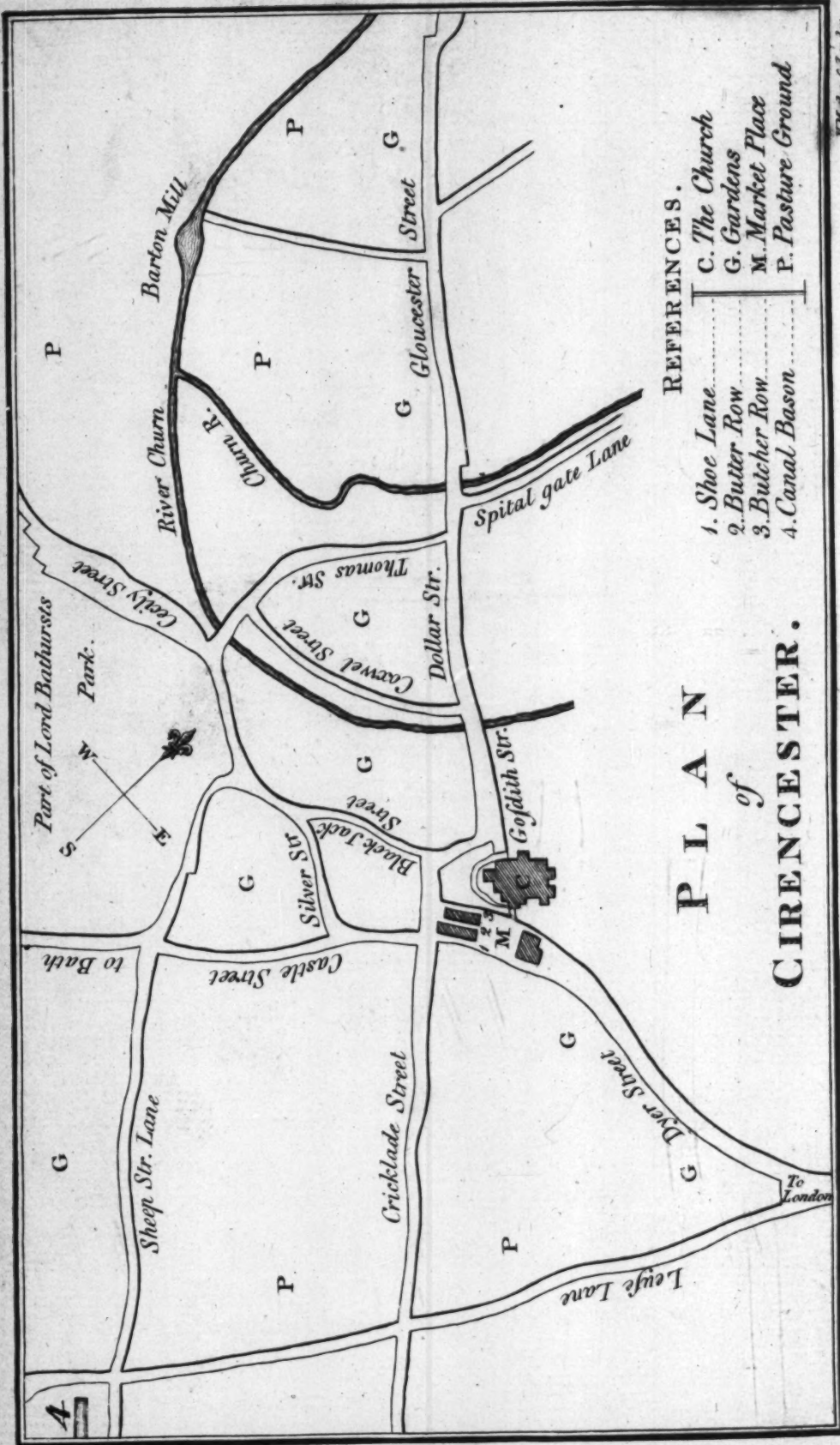
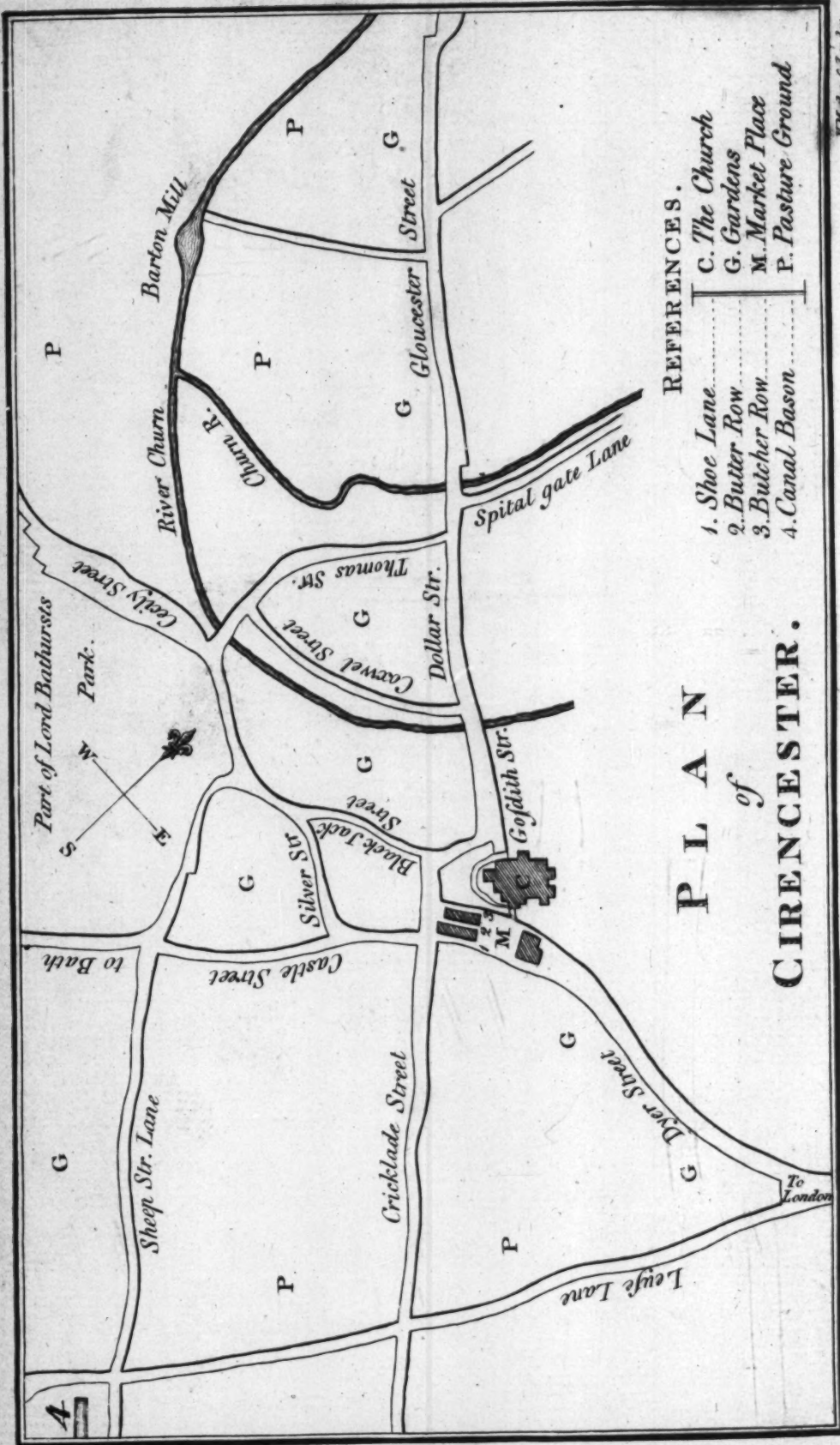
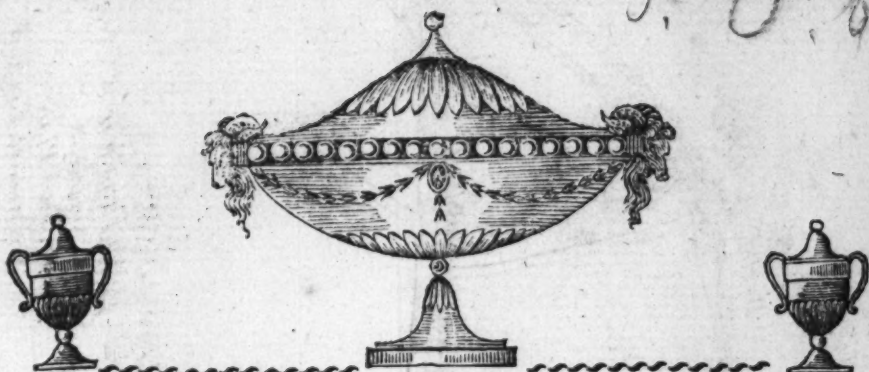






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THE
HISTORY
OF THE ANTIENT TOWN OF
CIRENCESTER,
IN TWO PARTS.

PART I.
THE ANTIENT STATE.

PART II.
THE MODERN AND PRESENT STATE.

WITH APPROPRIATE OBSERVATIONS, AND ILLUSTRATED
WITH PLATES.

More rightly if you know, the Fact discufs ;
If not, with Candor own the Truth's with us.

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RECORD
OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

see
see



P R E F A C E.

THE following is the history of a town of high antiquity. The Britons called it a City before the Roman invasion. It became afterwards an eminent station of the Romans; and has since been the scene of many important transactions. A short account of it was published in the year 1780, from some of the papers which compose this volume; but that edition has been long since sold off.

Since that time the materials have been greatly augmented, under a variety of heads. A court of justice and equity, taking cognizance of causes arising not only within the borough, but also in a large district of surrounding country, has been erected, by act of parliament, which act our readers will find under the proper head: A re-discovery has been made of a large subterraneous Roman building, of which we have seen no authentic account in any of

the writings of our Antiquaries and Topographers, except in Mr. Radder's History of Gloucestershire, which is too large and expensive for the pockets of the generality of readers. Sir Robert Atkyns, and the learned and curious doctor Stukely, had indeed taken some notice of it before, but their relations were given from hearsay and conjecture, and are consequently very erroneous; and what we have seen of others is altogether unworthy of notice. An accurate drawing of it has been taken, and we have given a plate from it to illustrate the description, wherein we have endeavoured to investigate and ascertain its original design and use. There are still considerable remains of this antient Roman structure, and as we know not that anything exactly like it has been found elsewhere in Great Britain, that alone is a circumstance sufficient to excite the attention of the curious and inquisitive reader.

We have had easy access to whatever the inhabitants could communicate, and both the antient and modern history of the town are considerably enlarged and improved.

The Yellow School charity is a benefaction so noble and ample, as but few parishes can boast of: and we have investigated the state of it, from the books, to a degree of minuteness which we hope will have beneficial effects, and answer a better purpose than merely to satisfy the reader's curiosity.

Treating

PREFACE.

Treating of the market, we have submitted a few thoughts on the great dearth in 1795, and on the mode of marketing by Sample; and we are truly sorry to experience, in the present year, another instance of the like calamity, to which our observations will equally apply.

In our account of the tithings, we have introduced the method of floating meadow lands. In disseminating this branch of knowledge we hope to be useful, as the method we have described is by many judicious persons esteemed to be preferable to all others; yet it has unaccountably happened, that Mr. Marshall has taken no notice of it in his Rural Economy of Gloucestershire, tho' it has been practised as long,* upon as rational principles, and with as beneficial effects, there, as in any part of the kingdom.

In the facts which we have related, great regard has been paid to accuracy and fidelity, without which history would be of no value; and we have even taken care to copy the monumental inscriptions correctly, the want of which, in a pompous and expensive work, in part only delivered to the public, has been justly complained of.

Various observations and reflections arising out of the subjects are occasionally interspersed. These

* Mr. Wright's method of Floating Meadows, 1799.

will prove more or less acceptable, in proportion as they are just and interesting, and as they are conformable to the reader's taste, and habits of thinking and acting; for no person, of the smallest knowledge in mankind, can entertain a doubt of the great influence of habit and usage on the human mind. The operation of reason is considerably obstructed in forming a right judgment of our *own* actions, to which we have been long habituated. A small obliquity in the conduct of others, becomes familiar, and less offensive, by frequent iteration; and modes of thinking, however unjust, having long passed current, are in some measure sanctioned by time. If we have combated any such veteran attachments, in treating of the borough, and election practices, we submit our arguments to the candid and well informed. If we elsewhere deviate from commonly received notions, and our opinions are found at variance with the reader's, he will do us the justice to believe, that they are offered with the best intentions, and with a diffidence becoming the relation in which we stand.

We hope to be held excusable, at least, for our endeavours at moral improvement as opportunity presented. Should this be productive of no further or other benefit, it may perhaps contribute something more than the generality of topographical writings, to the entertainment of other readers, besides those of the place which has given occasion to them.

In

In a multifarious undertaking, embracing so many subjects, perfection is not to be expected; but we can truly say, that nothing is wilfully misrepresented; and if at any time we should be found tripping, the candid reader will be mindful, that to err is the common failing of human nature, from which no mortal is exempt.

In saying thus much, we hope not to be charged with *indecorum*, tho' we are sensible of the justness of the observation of one of our best poets, "That
" it is a hard and nice subject for an author to speak
" of his work. It grates his own heart to say any-
" thing of disparagement, and the reader's ears to
" hear anything like self-commendation."

Our title-page does not announce the author's name, but it is not withheld from motives which actuated the editor of the *Spectator*, who tells his readers, "that he assumed so many fictitious characters because he would extort a little praise from
" such WHO WILL NEVER APPLAUD ANYTHING
" WHOSE AUTHOR IS KNOWN AND CERTAIN."

There seems to be no great occasion to declare our motives to publication; but since others have done so, we have no objection to follow their example. Let it suffice, then, to say, that having collected materials, and arranged them in some order for our own amusement, we feel a certain gratification

in

in communicating to others the information which has given us some pleasure in collecting; and that gratification will be further heightend, in proportion as the reader may be rationally entertained, and as our endeavours may find a favourable reception.

January 16th, 1800.



CONTENTS.

PART I.

The Antient State.

	Pages.
CHAP. I. Of the name, and great events, - - -	3
CHAP. II. Of the city walls, - - - - -	33
Roman Hypocaust, with a plate, - - -	43
Tesselated Pavements, &c. with a plate, -	60
The Bullring, a justing place, - - -	69
Grismund's tower, and urns found there, } with some account of urn-burial,	76
CHAP. III. Of the collegiate and abbey churches, - -	86
Catalogue of abbats, - - - - -	105
Scite of the abbey granted to Richard } Master, Esq; with some account of that } family, and their antient hospitality, }	112
Antient crosses, - - - - -	115
CHAP. IV. Of the antient hundred of Cirencester,	118

PART II.

The Modern and Present State.

CHAP. I. Salubrity of the town, - - - - -	125
Earl Bathurst's Seat, with a plate, - - -	128
Oakley-woods, with a plate, - - - - -	132
Streets, buildings, &c. with a plan, - - -	137
	Great

Great roads, stage-coaches, with a stricture on furious driving. - - - -	} 142
CHAP. II. Markets, fairs, trade, banks, with a dissertation on the dearth in 1795,	} 149
Manor houses deserted, a great evil, - -	179
CHAP. III. The hundred of Cirencester, in its present state,	180
Court of requests, with the act of parliament for erecting it, - - - -	} 182
CHAP. IV. Of the borough, and right of voting,	205
The duties and indispensable qualifications of a parliament man,	} 212
Delusions and false notions detected,	215
Apostrophe to candidates and electors, - -	218
These observations not written for such venal boroughs as Malmesbury, Bedwin, and Shaftesbury, - - - -	} 219
List of burgesses, - - - - -	220
CHAP. V. Of the manor and other estates, - - -	223
Short account of Earl Bathurst's family,	226
Tithings, The method of floating meadow lands there, with three plates,	} 237
CHAP. VI. Of the church, with an inside view of the curious south porch, - - -	} 245
Monuments, and Inscriptions, - - -	262
Reflections on the obituary, - - - -	299
CHAP. VII. Charitable institutions, magistracy, military association, and population,	} 303

T H E
HISTORY of CIRENCESTER.

P A R T I.

The ANTIENT STATE.

C H A P. I.

1. *Of the Name.* 2. *Great Events, &c.*

CIRENCESTER is a market and borough town in the county of Gloucester, situated in latitude $51^{\circ} 13' 30''$, longitude 90 miles westward from London. It is 36 eastward from Bristol, 33 north eastward from Bath, and 17 south eastward from Gloucester.

The town stands on the south-east confines of Gloucestershire, in a parish of the same name, adjoining to the north part of Wiltshire. It is watered by the river Churn, antiently called by the several

B

names

names of *Ceri*, *Cori*, and *Corin*¹, and takes its name from that river, for the Britons called it *Caer Ceri*^m, and *Caer Cori*ⁿ; in whose language *Caer*, which, in its genuine sense, should be translated a Wall or Fortress, came at length, when used in the composition of the names of places, to signify a Fortified Town.

Ptolemy calls the town *Polis Corinion*, and the Roman name of it, as found in Ravennas is *Corinium*; but it is written *Duro-Cornovium* in Antoninus's Itinerary, which, however, we conceive to have happened by the mistake of some transcriber, and that in the original it was most probably *Duro-Corinium*; for *Cornovium*, in the same Itinerary, is the name of Conway, in North-wales. Thus considered, *Duro-Corinium* seems to be no other than the British word *Dwr*, water, and *Corin* the name of the river, a little lengthened out with a Roman termination.

The Anglo-Saxons, either from the British or from the Roman name, called the town *Lopneceartne*, *Lupineceartne*, *Lypenceartne*; upon which it may be observed, that *ceartne*, from the Latin *Castrum*, is nothing more than a translation of the British

¹ Coryn in the British language signifies the TOP, very properly applied to this river, which is the highest source of the Thames.

^m *Cirrenceastre adiit, qui Britannice Cairceri nominatur, quæ est in meridiana parte Huiccorum. Affer de rebus gestis Ælfredi.* Ed. Wise, p. 35.

ⁿ Lombard's description of England.

word *Caer* into the Anglo-Saxon language. But in a deed of the date of 1360, the name is written *Cearncester*, and from these several forms, the orthography has varied, down to the present time, according to the learning or fancy of different writers. For some ages past, it has been settled as it stands at the head of this account; but in modern, vulgar, and colloquial language, the town is commonly called *Ciceter*.

It is said to have been an antient city, built by the Britons before the Roman invasion; and in a manuscript description of England, in the Sloan-library, (No. 2596) written by William Smith, a pursuivant at arms, it is asserted, that "Cirencester, commonly called Ciceter, standith uppon the river Churn, which is the principallest head that the Thamise hath, and springeth in Coteswold out of Cobberly poole, six miles est from Glocester. It is 8 myles directly west from Lechlade, and was in tymes past a goodly cittie before Glocester was builded."

Consistently with this writer, and with the accounts of many others of the best credit, and greatest antiquity, we find it to be a place of great resort and consequence, even before the Roman invasion, with roads branching from it every way, which probably recommended it to the Romans for one of their military stations. Yet when these writers speak of it as a city, it is at this time uncertain what idea we should form of it: for in Cæsar's time, the Britons had no cities nor towns, in the sense we now understand these terms. Their cottages, according to Tacitus, were made of

stakes driven into the ground, and wattled. And an assemblage of these, in their woods, fortified round with a kind of rampart and ditch, constituted their cities and towns. Cæsar speaks of them thus: *Oppidum autem Britanni vocant, quum silvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt*, L. 5. 1. 17. The Britons call that a town, when they have surrounded and fenced about their thick woods with a bank and ditch.

Xiphilin, speaking of the *Mæatæ*, or inhabitants of the now most northern counties of England, asserts, that they had neither *walls* nor *cities*: And we learn from Strabo, that what passed under the name of cities in Britain, were no other than groves. These are also very respectable authorities, which are not produced to impeach our antient writers, but that the reader may duly weigh the circumstances on both sides; when they will probably be of our opinion, that the disagreement lies wholly in the different acceptations of the words Town and City; for these discordancies only shew, that the Britons applied those terms to places which the Romans thought undeserving of them.

After the Romans had established themselves in Britain, they divided it into *Britannia Prima*, and *Britannia Secunda*; and these again were subdivided into smaller districts, which were called after the names of their respective inhabitants. Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire constituted one of these districts, and was called the country of the *Dobuni*, because inhabited

habited by a people of that name. And tho' we find it not so easy to ascertain the degree of eminence which Cirencester sustained before the invasion by the Romans, we may venture to say, that after they were settled here, they built and fortified it in their own manner, and that it became the chief place * in the before mentioned district of the Dobuni.

Being the metropolis of the district, it was called *Corinium Dobunorum*, and became a very eminent station for the Roman army. Antoninus places it at the distance of fourteen miles from *Gleivum*, or Gloucester, in the thirteenth iter from *Isca*, now Caerleon in Monmouthshire, to *Calleva*, which doctor Gale will have to be Henly, the *Calleva Attrebatum*, or chief city of the Attrebatii.

2. Memorable Events.

SOME say that the emperor Constantine was crowned king of the Britons at this place, whilst others insist, that York has a better claim to that honour. However, Cirencester was undoubtedly a very considerable place in that emperor's time.

For a series of many ages after the Romans left Britain, that despicable dynasty, called the Heptar-

* Eorum vero [i. e. Dobunorum] prima civitas fuit *Corinium*, a *Corinio* fluvio vicino appellata.—*Corinium* was the chief city of the Dobuni; and it was so called from the river *Corin*, upon which it stands. Leland's Itinerary v. 9, p. 32. chy,

chy, scarcely produced a man of letters, or a rational divine, venerable Bede excepted. There were no writers in those turbulent and barbarous ages, to attend to topography, and history; and we know very few particulars of the transactions which happened in them. The very few which have reached us, are to be found chiefly in the scanty historic remains of succeeding and ignorant ages, couched in the dry and detached manner of a journal, to which, therefore, we must have recourse.

According to the Saxon chronicle, in the year 577, Cuthwin and Ceawlin obtained a great victory at Dyrham (near Chipping-Sodbury) over three British kings, Commail, Condidan, and Farinmail, who had defended themselves in those parts with great bravery against the West-Saxons, but were then slain in battle, and the three cities of Gleawancester, Cyrencester, and Bathancester, fell into the hands of the conquerors. And it may be added, from another authority, that Cirencester was soon afterwards made a frontier garrison against the Mercians.

But this place was of so great consequence, that in the year 628, Penda, king of Mercia, endeavoured to recover it from the West-Saxons. And meeting Cynegils and Cwichelm (the king and his son) near the city, with great forces on both sides, a bloody conflict ensued; when, according to Huntingdon, both armies having abjured flight, the battle ceased only from the darkness of the night; and the event not being much in favour of either party, they made
peace

peace the next morning. But the West-Saxons remained masters of Cirencester, till Peada, the first christian king of Mercia, and son of Penda, won it from them in 656.

From that time, tho' it is hardly credible that nothing interesting should have happened here, for the space of two hundred years, yet we find little worthy notice till the year 878, when the Danes, under their king and leader Godrum, having been totally routed by king Alfred at Ethandune, now Edinton in Wiltshire, made peace, on condition that he and thirty of his chosen followers, would be baptized, and that his whole army should immediately leave the kingdom. Accordingly Godrum set out from Chippenham, and came to Cirencester, which was then a part of Wiccia †, in the year 879, where they continued for one year.

We are almost ready to conclude that this was the same person whom Polydore Virgil and some other monkish writers allude to by the names of Gormon, Gothrum, Gurmund, and Godrum, calling him an African tyrant, of whom they relate this wonderful story: That in antient times, without saying when, he besieged this city with a great army for several years in vain: but succeeded at last by the following stratagem.—He ordered a number of sparrows to be caught, and wildfire and combustible matter being

† Cirrenceastre, qui Britannice Cair-Ceri nominatur, quæ est in meridiana parte Huicciorum. Affer vit. Ælfredi. Ed. Wise, p. 35.

tied to their tails, they were immediately set at liberty, and lighting on the houses, set the city on fire, at which time he entered and took it in the confusion. This story however, could not be true of Godrum the Dane, if the testimony of Asser, and the Saxon chronicle may be relied on *, who mention nothing of the siege, and say positively that he remained here only one year. And indeed the story seems to have been fabricated after the model of Sampson's Fire-brands; yet, to give it the better colour, a large tumulus or mount in lord Bathurst's park has been called Grismund's-tower, and Christmas-tower, which we shall take notice of hereafter. We have not been able to trace this story up to its origin; but Giraldus Cambrensis, a credulous tho' ingenious writer of the 12th century, takes occasion hence to call Cirencester *the city of sparrows*. And Alexander Necham, one of the most celebrated wits of the 13th century, writes of it thus:

Urbs vires experta tuas, Gurmunde, per annos
Septem. —————

A city that experienced Gurmund's power
For seven long years.

* Anno 879, præfatus paganorum exercitus de Cippanhamme ut promiserat, consurgens, Cirrenceastre adiit, qui Britannice Cairceri nominatur, quæ est in meridiana parte Huicciorum; ibique per unum annum mansit. Asser de Reb. Gest. Ælfredi. Ed. Wile.

But

But tho' Necham was a learned man, and a good poet *, we must acknowledge that poetic authority is not in the highest estimation with us; and notwithstanding what Girald and some other writers from him have said concerning this long siege and cunning stratagem, we think the whole a pleasant fiction only; for which we have assigned further reasons under our account of Grismund's-tower, at the close of Roman and other antiquities.

This town has been honoured with the temporary residence of princes; for in the year 1020 we find it recorded in the Saxon chronicle, that king Canute, upon his return into England, held a mycelgemot, or great council, at Cyrncester, when duke Æthelword was outlawed. It was a place of considerable strength and security, and besides its walls, of which we shall have occasion to speak hereafter, it had a castle, which stood on the south-west side of the town. And tho' it does not appear when, or by whom it was built, we have a certain account of its destruction: For in the reign of king Stephen, Robert earl of Gloucester, one of the most eminent persons of his time, amongst his great exertions to restore the empress Maud to the throne, mustered all his forces near this place, and garrisoned the castle; but the king came so suddenly and unexpectedly upon him, that he surprised the garrison, took the castle, and burnt it. This earl

* Plato banished poets from his commonwealth, because they corrupt the truth with lies. Hakewell p. 235.

Robert was natural son of king Henry the First, and so half brother to the empress. He is sometimes called Consul, and was a person, above all others of that time, of such undaunted spirit, as never to be dejected by misfortunes. He was esteemed a prudent, brave, and valiant prince; learned himself, and a patron of learning *; qualities rare at all times in a nobleman of his high rank; but particularly in an age when knowledge and valour were thought incompatible; and not to be able to read, was a mark of nobility. When king Stephen was taken prisoner, in the year 1140, he would surrender to none but this earl. And when the earl of Gloucester was taken prisoner in 1141, and by William de Ypre sent to Rochester castle, tho' an offer was soon made to release him for the

* The character of this great personage will be particularly interesting and acceptable to such of our readers who are not acquainted with it. His mother was Nesta, the beautiful daughter of Rhees ap Tudor, or Theodore, prince of South Wales. He was made first earl of Gloucester after the conquest, and married Sibil, the eldest daughter of Robert Fitz-Haman, with whom he was enriched with great possessions. Lord Lyttelton, in his *Life of H. 2.* speaks of him thus: 'He was unquestionably the wisest man of those times; and his virtue was such, that even those times could not corrupt it. If, when the nation was grown equally tired of Matilda and of Stephen, he had aspired to obtain the crown for himself, he might very possibly have gained it from both; but he thought it less glorious to be a king, than to preserve his fidelity and honour inviolate. He seems to have acted only from

the king, he would not hearken to it, without the empress's consent. At length, after six months imprisonment, the empress agreed that the king and he should be set at liberty, and this exchange, one for the other, was deemed equal. According to Mr. Tyrrel, his father left him 60,000*l.* in cash by his will, a prodigious sum in those days. He built the castles of Bristol and Cardiff, and several religious houses, and died at Gloucester of a fever. After his death, the empress's cause declined very fast, the chief support being gone. But we return to the castle.

It has been just observed, that king Stephen surprized and burnt it; but it was repaired very soon afterwards; for we find it in the possession of the earl of Leicester, whose constable, William de Dive, held it out against the king for some time, but at length surrendered it, to procure better terms for his master upon his submission.

This castle was afterwards garrisoned by the barons who took up arms against king Henry the Third; but

‘ from the purest and noblest principles of justice and duty,
 ‘ without pride, without passion, without any private views
 ‘ or selfish ambition; and to this admirable temper of mind,
 ‘ he joined all the address and extensive abilities that are
 ‘ peculiarly necessary for the *head of a party*, who must con-
 ‘ nect and keep together great numbers of independent per-
 ‘ sons, held by no regular bond of obedience; conciliate their
 ‘ different passions and interests, endure their absurdities,
 ‘ soothe their ill humour, manage their pride, and establish
 ‘ an absolute authority over them, without seeming to exer-
 ‘ cise any but that of persuasion.’ p. 344.

the

the king soon recovered it, and by his warrant in the first year of his reign, caused it to be entirely demolished.

Notwithstanding the demolition of this fortress, Cirencester was still considered as a place of strength and respectability. And when king John, by oppression and unprincipled conduct, had alienated the affections of his subjects, and many of the great barons took up arms against him; * that king assembled a large army here to oppose them, in the sixteenth year of his reign.

Again,

* To revenge himself of his barons, whom he had provoked to resist him, he sent a base message to Murmeline king of Morocco, a mahomedan prince, possessing a great part of Spain, and exceedingly powerful, offering, if he would send him succour, to hold the kingdom of England of him as a vassal, and to receive the law of Mahomet. The moor, offended at this offer, told the ambassadors, ' That he had lately read Paul's epistles, which for the matter he liked very well, save only, that Paul had renounced that faith wherein he was born, wherefore he slighted John, as one devoid both of piety and policy, and who valued liberty at a higher rate than his religion.'

It is said, that in this reign the first standing military force was established in Britain, alluding to the garrison of Dover-castle. All our historians agree in the character of this prince, which is the very contrast to that of Robert earl of Gloucester: John was devoid of all principle, proud, cruel, and vindictive; perfidious, cowardly, libidinous and inconstant; insolent in prosperity, and dejected in adversity. He laughed at every thing which mankind in general look on as sacred; and Mat-
thew

Again, in the year 1322, we find this the temporary residence of that unhappy prince king Edward the Second, who, according to Walsingham, kept his Christmas at Cirencester, attended with an immense number of nobles, knights, bowmen, &c. at which time he convened hither the great men of the realm, to consult of measures to crush the confederacy formed by the earl of Lancaster, and the lords of the marches, against Hugh le Despencer, who was the king's favourite; and soon after the whole royal army was assembled here. But it appears by the history of this reign that the king was as unsuccessful as persevering. He and his party were opposed by the queen and prince of Wales with a large body of English, assisted by a great foreign force, who at length took him prisoner and lodged him in Berkeley castle, where he was murdered. Orlton, bishop of Hereford is charged with promoting the king's death, by sending to the keeper of the castle the following ambiguous sentence:

Edvardum occidere nolite timere bonum est.

The ambiguity is well preserved in the following translation

threw Paris, who lived in this reign, and was an excellent and faithful historian, finishes his character in three words: 'Fædatur Johanne Gehenna:' that is, in plain English, 'Hell felt herself defiled by John's admission.' In short, a worse prince scarce ever disgraced any throne. Yet after all, we must allow him the merit of being the first English king who perfected the coinage of pure sterling money.

flation, taken from Dr. Gibson's edition of Camden's Britannia ;

To seek to shed king Edward's blood,

Refuse to fear I think it good.

The fate of this king may serve for a lesson to all princes against favoritism, to which, as men, they are more particularly exposed.

But this place is most remarkable for the suppression of the rebellion raised by the dukes of Aumerle, Surry and Exeter, the earls of Gloucester and Salisbury, and their adherents, in the first year of the reign of king Henry the Fourth. It was an exploit full of heroic enterprise, and executed by the townsmen only. These noblemen had formed a horrid conspiracy to seize and assassinate the king at a tournament at Oxford, to which he was invited. The plot was committed to writing, and each conspirator had a copy signed and sealed by all the confederates. And Aumerle being at dinner with his father, the duke of York, and having the writing in his bosom, the duke discovered and seized it, and having read the contents, ordered his horse to be saddled immediately. Suspecting his father's intention, Aumerle rode full speed to the king at Windsor, and discovering the conspiracy, obtained his pardon before the duke of York arrived. The other conspirators suspecting the discovery, raised a numerous army to surprise the king at Windsor. But Henry having also assembled 20,000 men, marched to give them battle, which so discouraged them, that they retreated to Cirencester, and

and encamped without the gates. The chiefs quartered in the town. But the mayor perceiving that the gates and avenues were unguarded, assembled 400 men in the night, seized the gates, and attacked the four noblemen and their attendants in their quarters. The duke of Surry and earl of Salisbury escaped for shelter to the abbey, where they were taken and beheaded on the spot; but the duke of Exeter and the earl of Gloucester escaped by the tops of the houses to the camp, which the soldiers had abandoned, and fled. For the troops hearing a great noise and tumult of fighting in the town, which had been set on fire by the rebel party, and concluding that a detachment of the king's troops had entered another way, were seized with a panic and betook themselves to flight.

The duke of Exeter and earl of Gloucester were taken some time after, and lost their heads in the sequel. The heads of Surry and Salisbury were sent to London, their bodies having been buried in Cirencester abbey church; but the head of the latter was restored, and his body removed to Bustlesham, now Bisham, in Berkshire, where he had founded a priory for canons of the order of St. Austin, dedicated to Christ Jesus and the virgin Mary, and valued at the dissolution at 327*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The king, for this great service done him by the men of Cirencester, granted them all the rebels goods found in the town, and four does in season out of his forest of Bredon, and one hoghead of wine out of his port of Bristol. And to the women, he granted six
bucks

bucks in right season, and one hoghead of wine out of the same port: as may be seen more at large in the grants themselves.

King Henry the Fourth's Grant to the Men, &c. of Cirencester.

THE king, to all unto whom these presents shall come, greeting. Know ye that of our special grace, and for the good and laudable and acceptable services which the men of the town of Ciceter have performed, in resisting the malicious attempts of Thomas late earl of Kent, and John late earl of Salisbury, and other traitors and rebels, who had traiterously taken up arms against us and our crown, contrary to their allegiance; we do give and grant to the men aforesaid, all the goods and chattels, in whose hands soever they may be found, which did belong to the said late earls, and the other traitors, and were found in the said town when the said earls and other traitors were there arrested by the men aforesaid; excepting all gold and silver, and money, and vessels of gold or silver, or gilded, and except all jewels of all kinds; to hold unto the said men of our gift. In witness whereof, &c.

Given at Westminster the twenty eighth day of February,
I H. 4.

The Second Grant.

THE king to all unto whom these presents shall come, greeting. Know ye that of our especial grace, and for the good service which our beloved liege-people and commons of the town of Cirencester, as well men as women, have performed unto us, in the taking of the earls of Kent and Salisbury, and of others their followers, in the late rebellion, do grant unto the men four does in season, to be delivered unto them by our chief forester, for the time being, or his deputy, out of our forest of Bradon; and also one hoghead of wine, to be received

ceived every year out of the port of our town of Bristol, by the hand of our officer therein for the time being. We also grant unto the women aforesaid six bucks, to be delivered them in right season, by our chief forester aforesaid, or his deputy, out of the forest aforesaid; and also one hogshead of wine, to be delivered to them out of the port of our said town of Bristol, by the hands of our officer therein for the time being. This grant to continue during our pleasure. In witness whereof, &c.

Afterwards, in the 4th year of the same reign, the king granted to the town a court of Staple for merchandize, erecting a corporation of a mayor and two constables, and others the commonalty, for the encouragement of trade, by the execution of the *Statute Merchant*. But this charter, after a long suit in the exchequer, was decreed to be cancelled 37 Eliz.

When we consider the magnitude of this great service, in its object and consequence, we cannot but think it infinitely under-rated by the reward, and the king's dignity as much degraded by the grant.

All these events shew that the town was of good account in the times we have been reviewing; and as we draw nearer to our own, we shall find that it has been the scene of other remarkable transactions.

Here, as it is in *Corbet's History of the Military Government of Gloucester*, was the first forcible opposition to king Charles the First, in the year 1641, by insulting lord Chandois, then lieutenant of the county, who was executing the commission of array. The
D people

people encompassed him, and forced him to sign a paper, promising that he would no more attempt to put it in execution. His lordship escaped unhurt in his person, but his coach was cut in pieces.

This place was garrisoned soon after by the parliament's forces, and we present our readers with the following account of the siege and taking of Cirencester, published by prince Rupert's chaplain.

On the 21st of January, 1642, prince Rupert marched from Oxford, with five regiments of horse, his own troop of life-guards, and a considerable body of dragoons and foot, and took with him four field-pieces to secure his march. His design was to relieve colonel Hastings, who was besieged in his own house at Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire; but hearing in his march that the siege was raised, the prince turned his thoughts on Cirencester, which had been fortified by the parliament, and was provided with a good garrison, commanded by colonel Fettiplace. This town, by reason of its situation, had much streightened the king's quarters, and was of great consequence at that time. This little army not being thought equal to the new enterprize, the king was applied to for a reinforcement, and some battering cannon; and till those could be brought up, his highness, by easy marches, passed through Warwickshire into Gloucestershire. On Monday morning the 30th of January, the van of the army passed by Sudley castle, which was possessed

seized but two days before by a detachment from the garrison of Cirencester, and which was thought to be so dependent on the fortune of that town, that the prince resolved to pursue his first purpose, and if he should be successful, to leave the castle to come in afterwards. This day, however, the prince posted his own regiment, with lieutenant-colonel O'Neal, and a strong party of dragoons, to keep watch on the Cirencester side of the castle; and at night when the main body of the army came up, the parties were all drawn off, and the whole army lay in the open fields near Hawling, about two miles from the castle.

On Thursday morning the prince received a reinforcement of dragoons, and a regiment of horse under colonel Slater, with two eighteen pounders, and a mortar-piece to throw grenades. All these joined him at the rendezvous near Cirencester. After his highness had reconnoitred the north side of the town about Spital-gate, colonel Lunsford, with his dragoons, was appointed to attack that quarter, and lord Carnarvon's regiment of horse was to second him, whilst Monsieur la Roche planted his mortar-piece within one hundred and fifty paces of Spital-gate, to act in conjunction with them. Things being thus disposed on the part of the army, it may not be amiss, before we come to blows, to speak a word or two of the situation of the besieged.

The town being pretty large, and esteemed the key of Gloucestershire, some diligence had been used in fortifying it, which was indeed strong in its natural

situation, being about half way round encompassed with water, a great part with a high wall, and the remainder secured by strong works. The gardens were divided by many low dry stone walls, which may be considered as a kind of breast-works. The streets were barricaded with chains, harrows, and waggons. Each end of the high or main street leading through the town was secured against the horse with strong turnpikes. They had erected two batteries, one of which was of two six-pounders, on the south-west corner, which commanded Cricklade way. In Sir William Masters's [the abbey] garden, which is on the north side of the town, they opposed a brass saker to the mortar in colonel Lunsford's quarter, as was before observed. And in the market-place they mounted an iron six-pounder; which five were all their ordnance.

The Barton-house, then called Giffard's, and a square high garden wall lined with musketry, was another strong post of the besieged, at the north-west end of the town. On the left hand of the Barton stands a water mill, and about four hundred yards up the river Churn, at the lower end of Gloucester street, stood another. Both these mills had been strengthened with walls and other works.

The chief officers were colonel Fettiplace, (a country gentleman) the governor, and lieutenant-colonel Carr, a Scotchman, on whom it seems was the principal dependance; and who is said to have declared, the day before the attack, that he would keep the town against 20,000 men.

The

The prince leaving Lunsford at the Spital-gate, marched the main body to the Barton-field, on the north-west end of the town, and after the necessary dispositions, gave the command of the right wing, consisting of four regiments of dragoons, supported by Sir Thomas Byron, with the prince of Wales's regiment of horse, to lord Wentworth. The left wing, composed of colonel Uffer's regiment, and about 400 men, brought in that morning by colonel Wentworth, seconded by prince Rupert's own regiment, and his life-guards under the respective commands of lieutenant-colonel O'Neal, and Sir Richard Crane, his highness took himself: and the command of the centre, consisting of a body of 500 well-disciplined men, with colonel Lewis Kirke at their head, supported by prince Maurice's regiment, was given to lieutenant-general Wilmot. The reserve was committed to Sir John Byron, who with his regiment of horse was to guard the rear.

The word was QUEEN MARY, which given, the order of assault was thus: A forlorn-hope of thirty musketeers, drawn out of colonel Kirke's men, and headed by lieutenant St. John, were marched along by lieutenant-general Wilmot, who was to direct them where to attack, between the Barton-house and the great manor * house, which was then belonging to the Poole's family, and being come almost to the hedge of a close ground which stood between the gar-

* Lord Bathurst's house now stands on the scite of it.

dens of these houses, the general sent a messenger to the prince, to desire the canon might be advanced, saying, ' that they were already almost in the hedge.' At that hedge, and the low wall beyond it, the skirmish began. Here lieutenant St. John was shot in the leg, and rendered incapable of advancing any further, but his men maintained a good fire against the enemy ; and soon after, sixty men of the same corps coming to the assistance of the first thirty, and these being again followed by another reinforcement under lieutenant-colonel Layton, after a few hot volleys, the townsmen were beaten from the hedge to the Barton garden-wall, and were pursued by the king's troops, who running close under the wall, flung stones over upon the enemy.

Whilst this was doing, lieutenant-general Wilmot led Kirke's whole regiment down the hill to the Barton-house and garden-wall ; and colonel Uffer, with 400 men besides his own regiment, was sent by the prince to second him, who together attacked the house on every side. The pike-men marching forwards to the lane, cleared the avenue which was obstructed by a heap of bushes, and so entered the yard ; whilst colonel Uffer perceiving the garden wall (within which the enemy's musketry stood) too high to be climbed on the front, found means to enter the garden on the back side, where, and from the windows of the house, the enemy were still firing at Kirke's men. At their entrance the king's men killed about fourteen, the rest ran away. Thus got to the house, the colonel,
with

with a fire-pike in his hand, set fire to it; and the soldiers fired the stacks of hay and corn that stood about it, which made the place too hot and smoaky to be tenable. The townsmen beaten out of the house, garden and works, retired with more haste than order, by Cicely-hill, to their first turnpike; the king's men pursuing closely at their heels, made a considerable slaughter.

All this while lord Wentworth was warmly engaged in another quarter. His post was to have fallen to the southward, on the right hand of Poole's mount*; but misled by the guide, they fell into the close to the left hand of the mount, where they were both flanked by the battery, and annoyed by the musketry from the high wall before them. The officers thinking it very difficult to force this wall, drew to the left into the lane, and there joined colonel Kirke's men, and with them entered the turnpike together; for the enemy having been just beaten from the side-works that guarded it, the king's troops had burst it open, and made the passage clear.

Colonel Uffer marched thro' this turnpike, and placing a guard upon the bridge at the bottom of Cicely-hill, turned on the left up the mill-bank, to come at a body of the enemy collected together at another work; but upon his approach, they fled and forsook their colours.

* Now called Grismund's tower, over the ice-house, in lord Bathurst's park.

The foot thus engaged, the horse kept their station at the end of the town, where they were annoyed from Poole's battery, which played upon them incessantly. But colonel Innes having sent the prince notice that the turnpike was won, his highness ordered colonel Scrimfour, with a small party of his own life-guards, to push into the town, who were immediately followed by the whole troop, which fell in before the foot, and drove all before them, killing many as they passed. In the market-place, they found about 300 foot and 50 horse, who fled upon the spur. The foot getting into the houses, fired out at the windows. The market-place thus cleared, and Sir Richard Crane advancing eastward down Dyer-street, a Spanish gunner ran out of the King's-head inn, to fire a piece of ordnance full upon the croops of the prince's troop; but was prevented by a gentleman that rode in between the Spaniard and his piece, and pistolled him.

The life-guards then passing on to another turnpike at the end of Dyer-street, discovered a body of between 2 and 300 of the enemy, in a walled close on the left; but the wall not permitting the horse to come at them, Sir Richard Crane, suspecting they might have some near way to get into the market-place, and cut off his retreat, retired thither himself, and made that part good till the foot came up. In his way he cut down many that appeared in the street; and the foot coming in, they searched the houses, and some of those they found were killed, the rest made prisoners. Colonel Fettiplace, captain Warneford, and
Mr.

Mr. George, one of the members of the borough, were among the latter.

Hitherto the strong post at the water mills, on the left of the Barton-house, where the enemy had placed a pair of colours, had not been attempted; but seeing the town was taken another way, they pulled down their colours, and retreated inwards to a bridge and chain. The horse pursued them, but not being able to pass the chain, the enemy faced about, gave them a volley, and kept their ground, till they were driven from thence by a body of foot who came to the assistance of the horse. Here Mr. Payne, * a clothier in the town party, was killed with the colours in his hand.

All this while, the garrison were skirmishing with colonel Lunsford and lord Carnarvon, at the Spital-gate; but hearing of the town's being taken, they flung down their arms, and ran away with those whom Sir Richard Crane had left in the walled close. Colonel Lunsford forced the Spital-gate, and Sir Charles Lucas entered by a turnpike.

At first entering the town, the cannoniers and musquetiers fled from Poole's battery, leaving their colours standing, which the prince ordered to be taken down; and it is said, that captain Seymour and his company forsook their guard and colours, at George's battery, before ever they had seen an enemy.

Lord Carnarvon pursued the fugitives to the southward, killed a few, and made many prisoners. Sir

* There is a punning epitaph for him in the church.

John Byron followed those that fled towards Cricklade, killed above a hundred, and made as many prisoners; among the latter, two clergymen, Mr. Stanfield and Mr. Gregory, minister of Cirencester. Prince Maurice pursued those that fled from Poole's battery, and some of those that were first overtaken were killed; but it being enough to prostrate to a lion, about three hundred of them falling before the prince's feet, his mercy pleased itself with making them prisoners.

Great numbers of arms were taken in the houses, and drawn out of the rivers, where they were thrown to prevent their falling into the hands of the conquerors, to the amount of 3000. All the five pieces of ordnance were found standing in their places.

On the part of the king, major Hutchison and about twenty private men were killed, and lieutenant St. John shot in the leg. On that of the town, the lowest computation is 300 killed, and 1200 taken prisoners, of whom 160 were wounded, to whom the prince sent his surgeon, doctor, and chaplains, the next day, to dress and visit them. In this affair, general Wilmot distinguished his judgment and valour. Colonel Layton's horse was shot through the neck, and major Windebank's was killed under him.

It is observable that this account takes notice of only one person having been wounded of the royal party. That there should have been no more is very improbable, but, if true, so much the better. We have

have no pleasure in recording the deeds of blood and slaughter, and we shudder to reflect on cool and deliberate carnage. What thinking mortal can read the detail of a battle, without lamenting the fate of those who fell! without sympathizing with those who have lost their parents, their children, their husbands, their brothers, and friends!

- - - - - Quis talia fando

Temperet a lachrymis! - - - -

We consider war in general as the scourge of mankind, wholly incompatible with rationality, and the christian system; and we lament, alas! that princes so frequently appeal to the decision of power, so discordant to equity and justice! But to proceed:

The town was afterwards made quarters, sometimes for the king's army, at others for the parliament's; and after the raising of the siege of Gloucester, in 1643, the earl of Essex beat up the king's quarters here, and drove Sir Nicholas Crisp and colonel Spencer, with their two regiments of horse, out of the town, and in that action took 400 horse and thirty cart loads of provisions, which were a seasonable supply to his army. But we have seen no particular account of any skirmish between the two parties, subsequent to the siege. There is reason to believe, however, that the slaughter was much greater than here represented. In August, 1793, heaps of dead bodies, with the bones not much decayed, supposed to be some of those who fell in flight at the siege, were found about two feet under ground, on the side of the road at

Watermore

Watermore, just without the town, leading to Cricklade.

The Revolution is deservedly considered as a most interesting epoch in the annals of Britain: And it is not a little remarkable, that this place is particularly distinguished on that occasion also. As here was the first opposition in the county, at the breaking out of the civil war, so here, likewise, in the year 1688, was the first bloodshed on account of the revolution; when lord Lovelace, being on his march to join the prince of Orange, with a party of horse, was attacked by a captain Lorange, of the county militia, animated by the duke of Beaufort, who was very zealously attached to king James.

The captain was proprietor of Haymes, near Tewkesbury, in Gloucestershire; and tho' both he and his son lost their lives in the conflict, his men overpowered lord Lovelace, and carried him prisoner to Gloucester jail, having slain some unfortunate gentlemen at the same time. Captain Lorange made choice of this town particularly, for the ground on which to attack the prince's party, knowing that the greater part of the inhabitants were implicit followers in the Beaufort train, and had imbibed the court principles of indefeasible right, and non-resistance. And it has been remarked, that some of their descendants and successors have distinguished themselves since that time in the interest of the Stewart family. Their attachment was strong in the year 1745, when they

they openly avowed their principles, and established a society to further their views, which, however, were frustrated in the defeat of the pretender's army at Culloden.

These facts, as well as others which have happened on both sides the Tweed, as it were but yesterday, may serve to show, what dangers men will face, and what risques they will run, who are actuated by real principle. To have the strongest effect, it is not necessary that such principle be good and virtuous. It is sufficient to such effect, whether good or bad, right or wrong, that a man thinks it right; and if he be really so persuaded, his passions in either case will be raised to the same pitch of enthusiasm.

It was necessary to notice these facts, as the history of a place includes that of its inhabitants. It has been said, but how justly it is not necessary at present to enquire, that the avowal of truth can do no injury, tho' the withholding of it may; and as the closing of this tophic here, might leave a false impression upon the mind of the reader, it is but candid to add, that the attachment of the inhabitants of this town to the Stewart family, has been long since done away; and that the few now living, who were then under its influence, as well as the descendants of such of them who have paid the debt of nature, are fast friends to his present majesty.

To attribute this change to a versatile and unsteady disposition, would be to injure their character. Abandoning first received principles, and first leaders,
tho'

tho' on conviction of error, has been, and perhaps always may be, loudly condemned by designing men, when it opposes their interests, and thwarts their designs; and this has occasioned it to be too commonly understood, by the ignorant vulgar, to be a kind of criminal desertion; tho' in fact, upon such conviction, it is a most distinguishing mark of a candid and vigorous mind.

Men commonly form their religious and political principles upon the model of their parents and preceptors, at a period of life but little devoted to thinking. Things are taken much upon trust and confidence: And at maturer age, to examine what with so much care and trouble has been taught, and has so long passed for sterling; and to learn, if necessary, something very different, seems a double and difficult task, and requires more fortitude than falls to every person's share to accomplish: Yet it is certainly our duty to examine principles, and to act from conviction, with moderation and temper. This is not meant as a particular apology for the people of Cirencester, who upon that account stand in need of none; but are general sentiments which we flatter ourselves will apply in all cases.

We just now observed that a political club or society was formed here in the year 1745. This society still exists, tho' with very different views, in a succession for the most part of new men. And it affords a striking instance of the prevalence of custom, to which men often adhere after the cause is done away:

And

And thus it happens, that tho' the existing members are staunch advocates for the present administration, one of their original sentiments, *A speedy end to all our greivances*, (strongly marking disapprobation of men and things) still continues to be given at their weekly meetings; and *The duke of Beaufort*, as formerly, is a standing toast among them. But to return from men to things:

We shall close our account under this head, by observing, that the summer assizes for the county, in 1679, was held here, by lord chief justice Scrogs and Sir Robert Atkins, on account of the plague or some pestilential distemper being then at Gloucester.

CHAP. II.

Of the City Walls, Roman Hypocaust, Pavements, and other Antiquities.

THE walls of the city were built by the Romans, as appears by the several latin inscriptions on some of the stones, mentioned by Leland. They were about two miles in circumference, and remained entire in the reign of king H. 4. but were razed soon afterwards.

afterwards. Leland traced the foundations round in the time of king Henry the Eighth, but even then there were but few vestiges remaining, upon which occasion he fell in with this melancholy reflection, in the words of the poet.

- - - - - Sic omnia fatis
In pejus ruere, ac retro sublapſa referri. Virg.

By fates decreed, to ruin all things run,
And back to priſtine atoms lapſe again.

Leland was one of the viſitors ſent by king Henry the Eighth to examine into the ſtate of the monaſteries, previous to their diſſolution. He was a man of letters, and a very judicious and inquiſitive antiquary, to whom moſt ſubſequent writers on antiquities are much indebted for information, which the lapſe of time and the deſtruction of papers would have rendered it impoſſible by their own induſtry to obtain.

His language is a little antiquated, and often intermixed with Latin, but for the ſake of ſuch of our readers who may not underſtand that language, we have given the Engliſh. Speaking of the antiquities of the place, he ſays, ‘ A man may yet, walking on
‘ the bank of Churne, evidently perceyve the com-
‘ pace of foundation of towers ſumtyme ſtanding in
‘ the waul. And nere to the place wher the right
‘ goodly clothing mylle was ſet up a late by the ab-
‘ bate, was broken down the ruine of an old tower
‘ toward

' toward making of the mylle waulles, in the which
 ' place was fownd a quadrate stone fawllen downe
 ' afore, but broken *in aliquot frustra*, [in sundry
 ' pieces] wherin was a Roman inscription, of the
 ' which, one scantlie letterd that saw yt, told me, that
 ' he might perceyve PONT. MAX. Among divers
 ' *numismata* [coins] fownd frequently there, Diocle-
 ' sian's be most fairest; but I cannot adfirme the in-
 ' scription to have bene dedicate onto hym. In the
 ' middes of the old town, in a medow, was found a
 ' flore *de tessellis versicoloribus*, [a pavement of dice-
 ' like bricks of sundry colours;] and by the town,
 ' *nostris temporibus*, [in our time,] was fownd a
 ' broken shank bone of a horse, the mouth closed
 ' with a pegge; the which taken owt, a shepard found
 ' yt fillid *nummis argenteis*. [with silver money.] In
 ' the fowth-south-west side of the waul be lykelyhod
 ' hath bene a castel, or sum other great building, the
 ' hilles and diches yet remayne. The place is now a
 ' waren for conys, and therin hath be fownd mennes
 ' bones *insolitæ magnitudinis* [of uncommon size;]
 ' also to sepulchres *ex secto lapide* [of hewn stone.]
 ' In one was a round vessel of leade covered, and in
 ' it ashes and peaces of bones. Lel. Itin. v. 5, p. 65.

And the same author, in his Collections, observes,
 that the abbat told him, he had found in the ruins of
 the old walls, ' *Arcuatos lapides insculptos majusculis*
 ' *litteris Romanis*;' that is, in plain English, ' Arched
 ' stones engraven with large Roman letters.'

Doctor Stukeley visited this place in the year 1723, and fancied that he could even then trace the old city walls quite round the town, of which we have no doubt; but antiquities give way to modern improvements, so that all which remains of the wall at present, lies on the east and south sides, about a mile in length, covered with earth and rubbish in some places about ten feet high. A small part being uncovered in the year 1774, it was found to be eight feet thick, and what then remained of it, about three feet high, built with hewn stone, strongly cemented with lime, sand, and gravel.

A little within the old city wall, on the south-east side of the town, is a pretty large tract of ground called the *Leaufes*, now garden grounds and corn-fields, belonging to Thomas Master, esq; where for many ages past have been found antient carvings, inscriptions on stones, pieces of Roman pottery, and tessellated pavements; with great abundance of coins, rings, and intaglio's, which have been long since dispersed. From these circumstances, together with the name, doctor Stukeley supposed the *Leaufes* to have been the Roman *Prætorium*; for *Llis* in the British language, says he, signifies a *Court*. The doctor's conjecture, that in this place was the *Prætorium*, seems not altogether improbable, tho' he may be mistaken in his etymology; for, in our opinion, the word *Leaufes* is only a slight variation from *Leafes*, which in the dialect of this part of the country, is the same

same with *Leafues*, or *Leafows*, as used in other parts, from the Anglo-Saxon *Lerpe*, and pretty generally understood to signify certain pasture grounds, all over England.

Several authors have mentioned, and indeed they have only barely mentioned, these antiquities; but their accounts (of the Hypocaust in particular) seem to be collected from report and hearsay; nor have they transmitted down to us so many particulars as the subjects deserved. We shall, however, collect from them what they have left us, and then subjoin the result of our own enquiry and observation, after a diligent survey.

Leland has left us no more than what we have already quoted; and Mr. Thomas Hearne†, his laborious editor, just takes notice, in the 8th vol. of his edition of Leland's Itinerary, that he had seen 'several
' coins which were found at Cirencester, having a
' figure with a Patera * in the right hand, and a palm
' branch in the left; and that some time before the
' year 1711, he had received an account of a Roman
' pavement *de tessellis versicoloribus*, that had been dis-
' covered there some time before.'

† The following epigram on this man, strongly marks his taste and industry:

Pox on't, quoth Time to Thomas Hearne,
Whatever I forget, you learn.

* The Patera was a vessel to drink out of, used at public feasts and sacrifices.

Sir Robert Atkyns follows next in order. ‘Here,’ says that gentleman, in his account of Cirencester, ‘are often dug up in old foundations, a great many and great variety of Roman coins. There was accidentally discovered, in a meadow near the town, an antient building under ground. It was 50 foot long and 40 broad, and about 4 foot high; supported by 100 brick pillars; inlaid very curiously with tesseraick work, with stones of divers colours, little bigger than dice: It is supposed to have been a bathing place of the Romans.’ This is all Sir Robert says, from whose account the reader will not very readily understand what part was so curiously inlaid; whether the pillars, the whole building, or (as is most likely) the pavement only.

Then comes doctor Stukeley, who has not complimented the good people of Cirencester on their taste for works of antiquity. ‘Large quantities of carved stones, says he, are carried off yearly in carts [meaning from the Leazes or Leausfes] to mend the highways, besides what are useful in building. A fine mosaic pavement was dug up here in September 1723, with many coins. I bought a little head, which had been broken off from a basso-relievo, and seems by the *tiara*, of a very odd shape, like fortification-work, to have been the genius of a city, or some of the *Deæ Matres* which are in old inscriptions, such like in Gruter, p. 92. The gardener told me he had lately found a little brass image, I suppose

' suppose one of the *Lares* *; but upon diligent scru-
 ' tiny, his children had played it away. Mr. Richard
 ' Bishop, owner of the garden, on a hillock near his
 ' house, dug up a vault sixteen feet long, and twelve
 ' broad, supported with square pillars of Roman
 ' brick, three feet and a half high, and on it a strong
 ' floor of terras. There are now several more vaults
 ' near it, on which grow cherry-trees, like the hang-
 ' ing gardens of Babylon. I suppose these the foun-
 ' dations of a temple, for in the same place they
 ' found several stones of the shafts of pillars, six feet
 ' long, and bases of stone near as big in compass as
 ' his summer-house adjoining, as he expressed him-
 ' self; these, with cornices very handsomely moulded,
 ' and carved with modillions and like ornaments,
 ' were converted into swine-troughs. Some of the
 ' stones of the bases were fastened together with
 ' cramps of iron, so that they were forced to employ

* The *Lares*, or household-gods, among the Romans,
 were so called, because they were supposed to protect men's
 houses; for *Lar* is sometimes taken for a house itself. They
 were represented in the form of a dog, as resembling that ani-
 mal in disposition, fierce and angry towards strangers, but
 gentle and kind to those of their own household. The Romans
 sacrificed to them, and it was the custom to eat up all that was
 left of the offering, how much soever it might be, for it was
 thought infamous to send any part of it to their friends, or the
 poor. And in allusion to this custom, when a gluttonous per-
 son eats all that is set before him, he is said *Lari sacrificare*,
 that is, he sacrifices to his household-god.

horses

‘ horses to draw them asunder, and they now lie before the door of his house as a pavement. Capitals of these pillars were likewise found, and a crooked cramp of iron, ten or twelve feet long, which probably was for the architraves of a circular portico. A mosaic pavement near it, and intire, is now the floor of his privy vault.

‘ Sometimes’, continues the doctor, ‘ they dig up stones as big as a shilling, with stamps on them. I conjecture they are counterfeit dies to cast money in. We saw a monumental inscription’, [see the margin] ‘ upon a stone of Mr. Isaac Tibbot’s, in Castle-street, in very large letters, four inches long †. It was found at a place half a mile west of the town, upon the north side of the Foss-road, called the Querns, || from the quarries of stone thereabouts. Five such stones



‘ lay flatwise upon two walls, in a row, end to end, and underneath were the corpses of that family, as we may suppose. He keeps Julia Casta’s skull in

† This stone is now in a garden wall of Mr. Stevens’s house, in Castle-street.

|| The Querns lie on the south side of the road to Tetbury.
‘ his

‘ his summer-house, but people have stole all her
‘ teeth out for amulets against the ague. Another of
‘ the stones serves for a table in his garden; ’tis hand-
‘ somely squared, five feet long, and three and a half
‘ broad, without any inscription. Another is laid for
‘ a bridge over a channel near the cross in Castle
‘ street. There were but two of them which had in-
‘ scriptions; the other inscription perished, being un-
‘ luckily exposed to the wet in a frosty season, pro-
‘ bably of the husband. Several urns have been
‘ found thereabouts, being a common burying-place.
‘ I suppose them buried here after christianity.”
Stukeley’s Itineraria Curiosa.

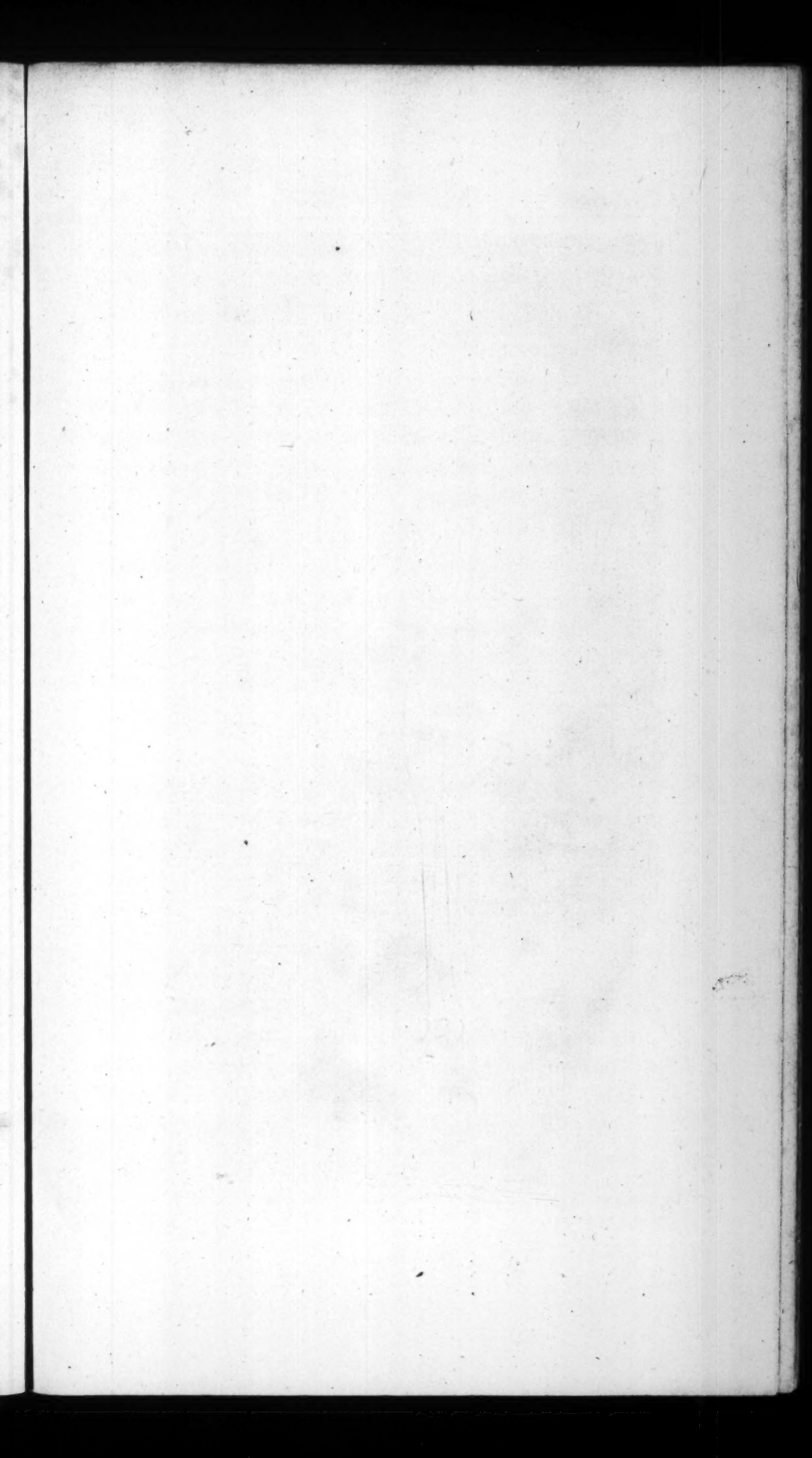
Thus for doctor Stukeley, who was certainly mistaken in supposing these vaults to be the foundations of a temple, as our readers will be presently convinced, when they come to our account of the late discoveries; but we thought proper to present them with the various opinions which we have met with on the subject. Here, without doubt, was a large, handsome dwelling-house, or houses, or perhaps some public building; and the pillars with capitals, and cornices with mouldings, modillions, and like ornaments, may be mutilated parts of them: But it is no uncommon thing for great antiquaries, of whom the doctor was a very eminent one, to indulge in chimeras. And whether or not it be literally fact that such ornamented stones have, as the doctor was informed perhaps, been converted to the before-mentioned base purposes,

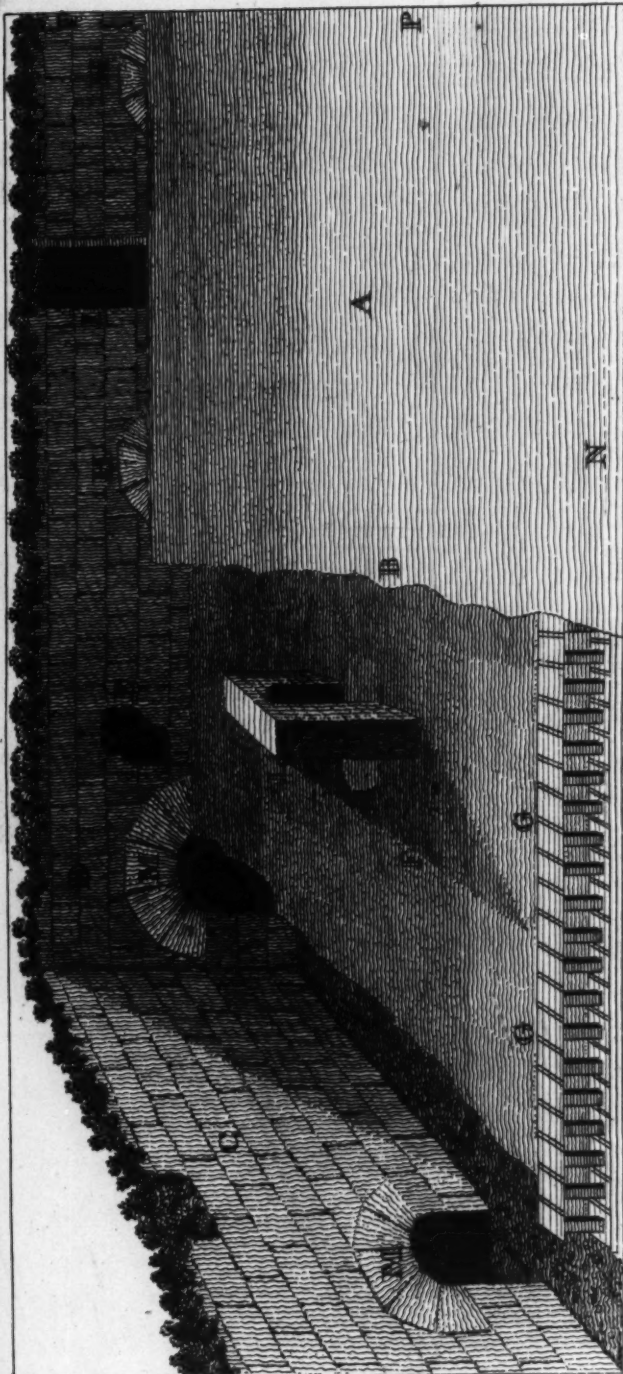
purposes, is not our present purpose to enquire; but we find ourselves disposed to offer an apology, if it may be admitted, for the poor townsmen of Cirencester, long since consigned to their graves.

We are really very sorry for whatever inattention has happened to the antiquities of the place. Many valuable remains might have been preserved, which seem, by the doctor's account, to have been appropriated to vulgar uses.

Will it avail, in excuse to say, that all men are not Stukelies; and that what we see in abundance every day, becomes less curious from frequency, and less valuable from plenty? From such things we part with ease and indifference; whilst others, to whom they are rare, purchase them with avidity, receive them with rapture, and treasure them up with solicitude and care.

Every thing has its time, and every day its fashions. Our forefathers lived in an age dissimilar to the doctor's, as well as to our own. It is now fashionable to affect a particular attention to any old fragment. And since men of real judgement have noticed reliques of antiquity, which in their hands have served to illustrate antient manners and history; others now-a-days, forsooth, think they display great judgement, by an over-weening fondness for trifles. Hence it is, that so many *potsherds* and *mutilated fragments*, with nothing either in their materials, use, or conformation to recommend them, are continually accumulated by those who want judgement to make a proper selection.





View of a Roman Hypocaust at Cirencester.

selection. This is not the result of good taste, but an affectation of it. \ It pretends to discern beauties, excellencies, and curious circumstances unobserved by others, and which, in fact, have no existence. These are a complete contrast to our forefathers. Error always lies in the extreme; and if, on one hand, it be a culpable indifference, and a distinguishing token of ignorance, to neglect and undervalue noble monuments of antiquity; it is, on the other, a folly to affect to admire deformity, and to prize things of no value.

The Hypocaust, &c.

WHEN we compare the foregoing accounts with each other, it seems probable, that the antient building mentioned by Sir Robert Atkyns, was the same that, according to a manuscript which we have seen, was discovered in the year 1683; and that it was the identical building, which was afterwards found and in part destroyed, as related by the gardener to doctor Stukeley. The doctor's ideas were modelled from the other's information and notions; for it is altogether improbable, from the foregoing account, as well as from what we have still to offer, that he ever saw the remains and foundations, of which he heard so much from the gardener; or without doubt he would have given an accurate description of them.

G

It

It seems, therefore, that they had been covered over again with earth, and planted upon in the ordinary way, before the time of the doctor's visit.

From that time, it does not appear that there had been any attempt towards a further and more particular examination, so that at length the place where they lay was entirely forgotten, 'till the year 1780, the remains of these antiquities, as there is reason to suppose, were again accidentally hit upon, by the workmen in the garden. The men had frequently heard strange stories of coins and other curiosities having been found in abundance hereabout, and digging upon a spot about sixteen yards * from a wich-elm then growing in the south-west wall, turned up several flat bricks, very unlike any they had ever seen before. This awakened their curiosity and attention, and clearing away the earth with some care and caution, to make an opening, in search of things still more curious and valuable, at the depth of about three feet and a half below the surface, they came to a very smooth floor of terras, made of coarse, strong mortar, distinguished in the annexed plate by the letter A.

Proceeding to remove the rubbish from the surface of this floor, towards the north-east, they found it discontinued and broken down, as at B.

Clearing away the earth from the broken edge B, another floor F presented itself, about four feet and

* We notice the wich-elm, that should the Hypocaust be covered again, it may be readily found hereafter.

a half below the surface of the first, and made of the same kind of materials. This was covered over with rubbish.

The next object was to see how far this latter extended every way; and proceeding in the same direction, they were very soon stopped by a wall of hewn stone C, about fifteen feet north-eastward from the broken edge B, of the upper floor.

In the further prosecution of this business, they met with another obstruction from a kind of brick-work L, standing as it were isolated upon the last discovered floor F. This was a small piece of walling, about six feet long, with an arched opening through it, about eighteen inches wide, as represented in the plate. And removing the loose earth which lay about it, a very large cavity was then first observed between the two floors. This was a very important discovery; and upon examination it appeared, that what remained unbroken of the floor A, was supported by rows of brick pillars, standing upon F, the floor beneath.

Continuing the scrutiny, another wall D, was found, on the south-east side, joining in a right angle with the former; and the crowns of two arches M M, of very large stones, were observed in the walls, with a very small part of the cavities of the arches appearing above the floor F. In order to examine the cavities under the arches, a small portion of the floor F was broken up, close to the sides of the walls, and sinking to the depth of thirty-four inches, a third very strong floor of terras, mark'd K in the plate, was dis-

covered, running all the way under the second, the space between being filled with rough stones and rubbish thrown together in a promiscuous manner. This floor K extended under the arched cavities, and served as a hearth to them, where long continued fires had been made, as appeared by a bed of wood-ashes, about two inches thick, found at the bottom, after the rubbish had been removed out of the cavities.

The next business was to examine whether this subterraneous building extended beyond the last discovered wall; and for that purpose a hole E was made through it, not without a considerable degree of labour, for it was forty inches thick. This wall proved to be a partition, to separate the vault already discovered from a similar one on the other side, with floors and brick pillars on the same level, and, as there is reason to suppose, exactly corresponding with those in the vault before-mentioned, tho' now in a very imperfect state; for here the vaulting had been destroyed, but some of the brick pillars remained.

In this wall, twenty feet distant from the angle made with the wall C, is a deep opening I, three feet wide, with square quoins, which give it the appearance of a door-way. This probably served for a communication between the two sitting rooms of the building immediately over these vaults; but the height of the door-way, as we shall now venture to call it, cannot be ascertained, as the arch or lintel which covered it had been broken down. At the distance of four feet from the door-way, are two arches, one on each side,
marked

marked H H in the plate. These have also large maffy ftones in their crown, and ftand on a level with the other arches already noticed. It is uncertain how far this partition-wall extended, as all beyond P is destroyed. However, the door-way ftanding exactly in the midft between the two arches H H, feems to indicate a regular building, and fuggelts an idea, that when it was entire, there may have been another arch, at a correfponding diftance from the door-way, with that on the other fide of it at M; and upon this fupposition, the length of the partition-wall muft have been forty-three feet. But the reader will pleafe to obferve, that this is only conjecture, founded upon the foregoing circumftances.

Thus have we fhown, in confiderable detail, how this extraordinary fubterraneous building was re-difcovered, and the feveral parts of it progressively laid open; and there can be no longer any doubt concerning its nature and ufe. As foon as the rubbifh was cleared away, and the parts fwept, we took a drawing of it, from which the annexed plate was engraven, which will elucidate the fubject much better than verbal defcription. And we think thefe remains deferve to be ranked among the rareft and moft curious relicks of Roman antiquities in Britain.

We fhall now fubjoin a few remarks on fome of the parts of this extraordinary building. It has been obferved that what remains of the upper floor A is fupported

ported by brick pillars, and it is evident that, when entire, it extended all over the floor F, supported every where by similar pillars and brick-work standing upon the latter floor. The wall C rises within two feet of the surface of the garden, and is built of courses of stones about five inches thick. It is faced on the inside only, the back part against the earth being rough, and filled up with rubbish, which is a proof that it was the boundary of the building on that side.

The upper floor, which rests upon the pillars, is fourteen inches thick, made, as before observed, with three coats of coarse, strong mortar. The pillars which support it are thirty-nine inches high, and eight inches square, made of courses of entire bricks of the same superficial dimensions, and about an inch and three quarters thick. These pillars have each a large brick of eleven inches square for a base, and another of the same size by way of capital. They stand in rows, at irregular distances, some not more than eighteen inches, whilst others are as much as two feet asunder. The capitals are covered with brick tiles of two feet square, upon which the terras rests. But several of the pillars which stood under the present remains of the floor A are wanting, which gave us an opportunity of passing upon our hands and knees, tho' not without some difficulty, among those which are left. We counted only twenty-two pillars standing, which were arranged in six rows; but there had been seven in each. In several of the vacancies the gardener has very carefully propped the floor with
round

round poles cut to the height of the pillars, which help to support it very well.

All the pillars, with their broad bases, and the floor or hearth upon which they stand, are very much burnt, so that but few of the former are perfect. This was occasioned in some measure by the force of long continued fires; but most probably they have suffered much injury by other accidents also, such as the knocking off pieces from the sides and angles with iron instruments, in stirring the fire, and placing the fuel, which are casualties that must sometimes unavoidably have happened.

There were found dispersed all over the floor F, which we have called the hearth, a very considerable quantity of wood-ashes, intermixed with coals, and consolidated, by length of time and natural humidity, into a hard mass; whence it evidently appears, that fires have been kept burning uniformly all over the hearth.

The coals and ashes, the visible effects of fire upon the hearth, and the burnt state of the pillars which stand upon it, are circumstances which leave not the smallest doubt concerning the nature and use of this building. It was unquestionably a Roman Hypocaust; but not one appropriated to bathing, as we shall presently be able to show; but which Sir Robert Atkyns supposed it to be. And we flatter ourselves, after this detailed account, our readers will be equally satisfied, that doctor Stukely was as much mistaken, (if these remains are what he speaks of) in supposing them to be the ruins of a Roman temple. But

But there is another conjecture, formed, it may seem, since the late discoveries, and for which the author bespeaks a more than ordinary degree of credit, as being, he says, the *most* probable; and therefore we should be thought unpardonably negligent to pass it over unnoticed. The passage alluded to appears in Mr. Bigland's Collections. We know nothing of the writer, who is generally understood not to be Mr. Bigland, but some person employed by him in that compilation. Taking notice of the before-mentioned observations of doctor Stukeley, he subjoins, by way of note, that

“ A few years since these discoveries were further investigated.—The most probable conjecture is, that IT was an *Officina*, or kiln, where the *tesserae* were prepared,” &c.

What this writer's IT refers to, we might leave to others to determine; but without criticising on grammatical inaccuracies, we will suppose it to have a reference to the foregoing discoveries; and from what he says, we are disposed to think the reader will join us in opinion, that he never saw them. Must we say, then, that it was easier to *conjecture* than to *know*? But what if it should appear, that he was in the daily habit of consulting a work, * from which he might have derived authentic information, and to which he is much indebted, without making the smallest acknowledgment? Does it not justify an observation,

* Rudder's Gloucestershire.

that there are persons so unaccountably affected to singularity, as to delight more in wandering *alone* in the dark and dubious region of wild fancy, than to tread *with others* in the plain and sober walk of truth and reason? Such dispositions have their objects and gratifications; and if it will afford this writer the smallest pleasure, we hesitate not to declare our opinion, that his *Officina Conjecture* is original, and that it was undoubtedly manufactured in his own *workshop*.

Hypocausts were common with the Greeks and Romans. The name is derived from two Greek words, *υπο*, *sub*, under; and *καιω*, *incendo*, I burn; and, for any thing we perceive, might be applied to any building having stoves or fire-places in the lower part, for heating the parts above. In this sense our malt-kiln may not improperly be termed a Hypocaust. However, the name was used in a more limited sense.

The antients had several sorts of such buildings, which passed under different denominations.

To one sort Cicero gives the name of *Vaporarium*, whilst others call it *Laconium*, and *Sudatio*. This sort was an artificial warm bath, made by fire under large vessels, commonly of brass, and denominated *Calidarium* and *Tepidarium*, according to the heat they communicated; and the quantity of water they contained. This might be something of the kind which Sir Robert Atkyns alluded to.

Palladio has given a description of another fort, and because it is short, and may serve to illustrate some appearances in our Hypocaust, we have subjoined it, for the satisfaction of the reader. It runs thus :

Veteres in subterraneo fornice non magno, cujus extrema pars extra domum muro terminabitur, unum ignem incendebant. Ab hoc canales plurimi, variæ magnitudinis, intimis fabricæ parietibus inclusi, ut hodie aquarum et sentinarum fistulæ, ad summam contignationem permeabant. His singulis nares erant ad os fornicis domus parietibus adjunctum, per quas calor inter parietes ascendens, ad oecos, triclinia, tablina manabat, et ad omnia loca quibus calorem procurare vellent. Quemadmodum vim ignis per canaliculos quosdam alembicum penetrare vidimus : ubi ignis quidem longissime distat ab ore vitri, quod tamen non minus calet, quam illa vasis pars, quam ignis proxime calefacit. Calor ille adeo æquabiliter in omnes partes se diffudit ut totum habitaculum impleret. Non ita camini, quibus si propius stes, æstuas ; si longius friges. Illic vero aer mitissimus se circumfudit, ut cameram, cui caminus in adverso muri latere collocatus est, accensus ignis paulatim et leniter tepescit. Canales illi qui calorem dispensabant, patulas fauces non habuerunt ; quare nec flammam nec fumum, sed calidum tantum vaporem, et perpetuum teporem emiserunt. Ignis in fornice parvulus, modo continuus, locis adeo occlusus vaporandis suffecit.

fecit. Ad os fornicis edulia parabant. Quaquaversum in muro vasa et ollæ collocatæ sunt, aquis ferventibus repletæ, quæ dapes calidas servarent.

Commodum sine sumptu maximum! nullo periculo, nullis sordibus, non fumo turbatum; mille incommodis solutum, quæ reliqua focorum genera comitantur. Non illic fumariolis, ignitabulis vel thermocliniis, tot malorum causis, opus fuit: non variis instrumentis ad frigus domandum, et fovenda calore corpora. Sed in singulis cameris per omne spatium æqualis tepor et mollissimus aer se diffudit. Canales plus minus calebant, ut ratio temporum postulabat. Peritissimi enim in calore moderando veteres fuerunt; uti lenis aure refrigeratione, qualem organorum folles spirant, quæ non minus suavis et placida est, quam illa acuta est, vehemens, et fæda, quam fabrorum folles ejectiont.

Si divites et principes viri qui ædes sibi ædificant exemplo adeo commodo uterentur, rem facerent dignissimam, quam omnes implecterentur, et quæ minore cum sumptu innumeris ærumnis nos expediret. *Palladio de Focis Veterum, in fine libri cui titulus Antiquitates urbis Romæ. Ital. & Lat. Oxonii, 1709 8vo.*

The sense of which the English reader may understand as follows:

“ The antients (says he) made a fire in a small
“ subterraneous vault, from which many funnels of
“ various sizes were carried to the several rooms of
“ the house, or whatever places they chose to warm,

“ and the heat ascended in them in the same manner
“ as it is found to pass through the narrow neck of
“ an alembic ; one end of which, tho’ very distant
“ from the fire, is not less warm than the part nearest
“ to it. Thus the heat so equably diffuses itself into
“ all parts that it fills the whole house. This is not
“ the case with chimney-hearths, near which if you
“ stand, you are scalded ; if at a distance, you are
“ chilled ; but where these pipes are carried, a mild
“ air diffuses itself around. These funnels which conveyed the heat had not open mouths, so they did
“ not emit flame nor smoke, but only a hot vapour
“ and perpetual warmth. A small fire in the vault,
“ provided it were continual, was sufficient. At the
“ mouth of the vault they dressed their victuals. Pots
“ and vessels were placed on every side in the walls,
“ full of hot water, to keep their victuals warm ; a
“ very great advantage, without expence, liable to
“ no danger, no filth nor smoke, and free from a
“ thousand inconveniences which accompany other
“ kinds of fires.” Thus far Palladio.

But there was another sort of Hypocausts, very different from the foregoing, and similar to that of which we have been describing the remains. They were used to warm the parlours and sitting rooms, more particularly, which lay immediately over them. Some of these indeed had pipes and funnels to convey warm air to other apartments, as described by Palladio ; and it is probable that in every sort there was

was some diversity, according to the fancy of the proprietor.

As our winters in this country are much colder than in Italy, so doubtless the Romans in Britain found it necessary to make their vaults and fires larger than those commonly used there: But two sides of our Hypocaust being destroyed, it is impossible to ascertain the extent of it, tho' from what has been delivered, it seems to have been very large.

There must have been somewhere a mouth or opening to it, as such a conveniency was indispensibly necessary for managing the fire, and supplying it with fuel; but as the remains exhibit no appearance of any such thing, we are compelled, as it were, to conjecture, that there were apertures on the sides marked N and P in the plate, now destroyed, at which the attendant might convey fuel to the interstices between the pillars, and whence the smoak might escape; and it is probable that they were shut up occasionally, as at night, like the mouth of our ovens.

In our detail of these discoveries we have taken notice of four arches in the walls, of which the two marked M M in the plate have been opened and examined; but it remains to be observed, that in several parts of the partition-wall, and particularly in the large stones of these arches, are a great many holes, in which were fixed iron hooks and hold-fasts, and some of those irons still remain to be seen. Many fragments of earthen funnels have been found among the ruins, and one in particular with the cavity entire,

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six inches by four, and who can entertain a doubt that the hooks and hold-fasts were to support the earthen funnels, which were carried from the fire-hearths to the upper rooms and apartments, to warm them with heated air, as described by Palladio?

But there are circumstances which convince us, that neither the floor K, nor the arches of which we have been speaking, are to be considered as necessary parts of our Hypocaust; for it is evident, by what we have said of them, and by their appearance in the plate, that this floor was entirely covered over with stones and rubbish, and that not more than about an inch and a half of the upper cavity of the arches appears above the hearth upon which the pillars stand, being the only communication they had with it, and which was by much too small to be of any real use in that state of things. How then, it will be asked, are these circumstances to be accounted for? If the floor and arches in question have no relation to the other remains, can it be shown what uses they were originally intended for?

These questions can be answered by conjecture only. We have repeatedly observed that the floor K was built upon, and entirely covered over, to the thickness of thirty-four inches, with the hearth of the Hypocaust; yet in breaking up a small part of the hearth F, to examine the cavity of the arches, it is observable, that the wall C is faced all the way down to the floor K, which latter is of the same materials and level with the bottom of the arches. It will be remem-

remembered too, that there was a considerable depth of ashes found in the arches, which shows that they have been used as fire-places; but that must have been prior to the laying of the hearth F, which made them totally inaccessible and useless. Is it not probable, therefore, that the covered floor and arches, all on the same level, are the hearth and fire places which belonged to a former Hypocaust; and that, either from its falling to decay, being thought too low, or otherwise disapproved, it was rebuilt with some alteration in the plan, and particularly with the hearth raised nearly three feet higher than K, the former one? This accounts for all the present appearances, and we think the conjecture probable; but our readers will judge for themselves.

Fragments of Roman pottery, and small cubical stones of different colours, which we shall presently show were the *tesserae* of some ornamented pavement, are continually found in these gardens; but it does not appear that the upper floor of the Hypocaust was tessellated.

A portion of a large pillar, and the capital of a pillaster, both of stone, and of very mean workmanship, which were formerly dug up there, among other ornamental parts of building, were lately in good preservation in the wall of the late Mr. Bush's garden in Cirencester. The shaft of the pillar, when entire, must have been eight or ten feet long, independent
of

of the capital and other members. Perhaps these are the very pieces mentioned by doctor Stukeley.

There was a fine figure of Apollo, in brass, about the height of eighteen inches, found in the same gardens, about forty years since, and we have been informed that it is now in the Bodleian library at Oxford, having been presented to the university by Mr. Master, the present proprietor of these gardens.

We have seen a small stone altar, of coarse workmanship, and about the height of seven inches, then in the possession of the late Mr. Bush, and which was found a few years before amongst the rubbish and ruins at this place. It had no inscription, and was probably the portable altar of some poor man, to be used in the offering of incense or salt flour, such as Camden mentions in his account of Lancashire; adding, that the Romans raised altars not only to their gods, but out of a servile flattery to their emperors likewise, under the impious title of *Numini Majestatique eorum*. At these they fell on their knees and worshipped, these they embraced and prayed to, before these they took their oaths, and to be short, in these and their sacrifices the whole of their religion consisted; so that those among them who had no altar, were supposed to have no religion, and to acknowledge no deity.

There is also a monumental stone placed in a building in the garden belonging to Siddington-house, about a mile hence, which was dug up thirty or forty years since, at Watermore common, just without the
the

the city wall, on the south side of the town. It has a pediment with a crescent in low relief, and an inscription as in the margin *. Lying by the stone, was an urn, with ashes and bones half burnt. This stone may be referred to the same age with that taken notice of by doctor Stukeley.



There was also a glass urn, of a green colour, dug up about the same time in Kingsmead, about half a mile from the town wall, on the same side. This urn, which contained much ashes, and many pieces of burnt bones, was placed in the cavity of a stone, chisselled out to receive it, and a flat stone covered the top. All these were deposited in the midst of a piece of ground about twenty feet square, and inclosed with a stone wall which lay below the surface of the ground; and they were further secured by a pavement springing from the wall on every side, and

* Mr. Bigland's editor has erroneously represented this inscription to be D. M. P. VICANAE CONIV. p. 342 of his Collections. And at the end of the same paragraph, is a false quotation from William of Worcester, making the poor monk say what he never intended, and then the editor very candidly reprobates him, as a writer not fit to be credited.

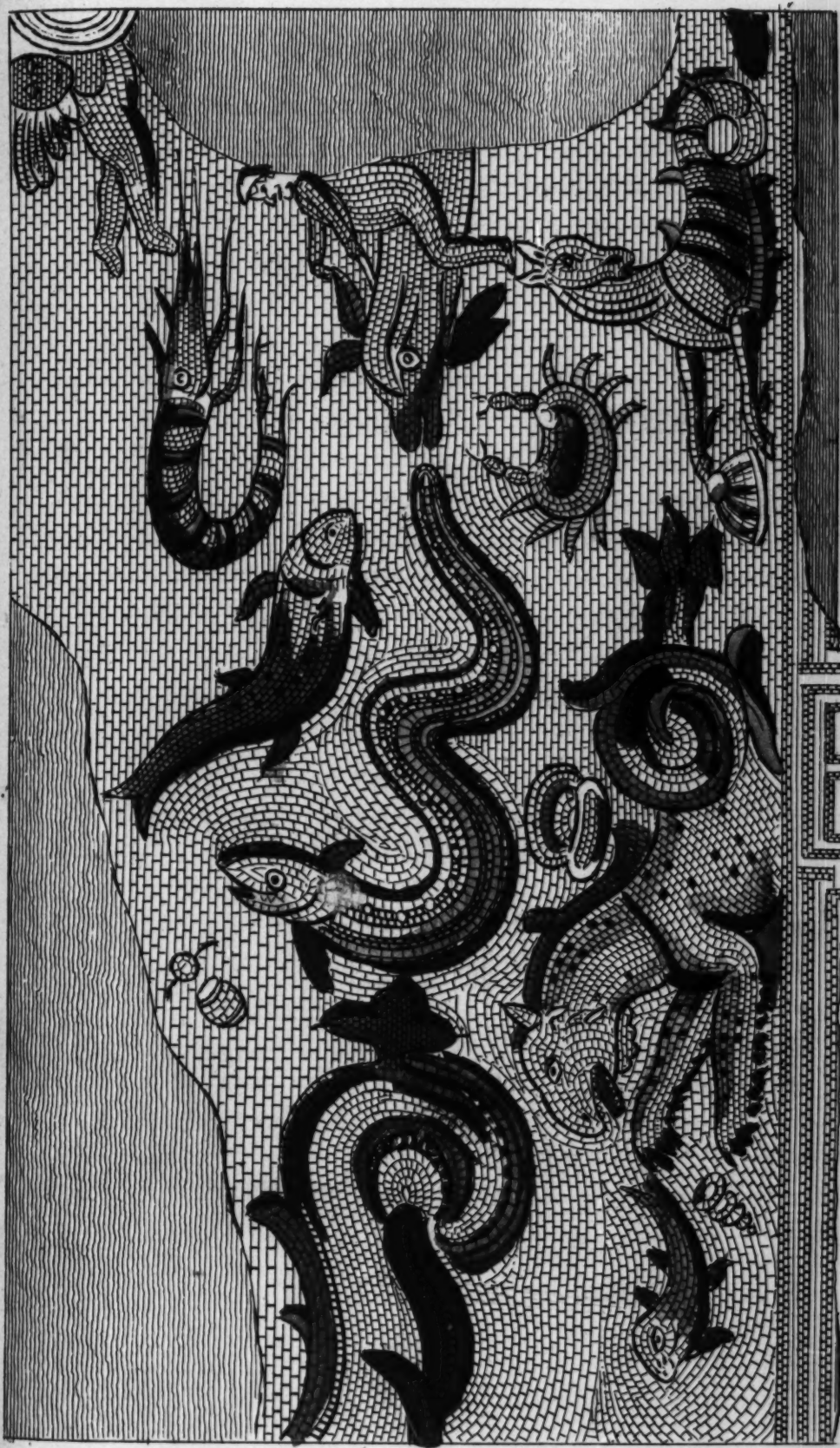
rising in the middle over the urn, in the form of a very obtuse cone. These were undoubtedly Roman, but unaccompanied with coins, unless the workmen concealed them on the first discovery.

Tessellated Pavements.

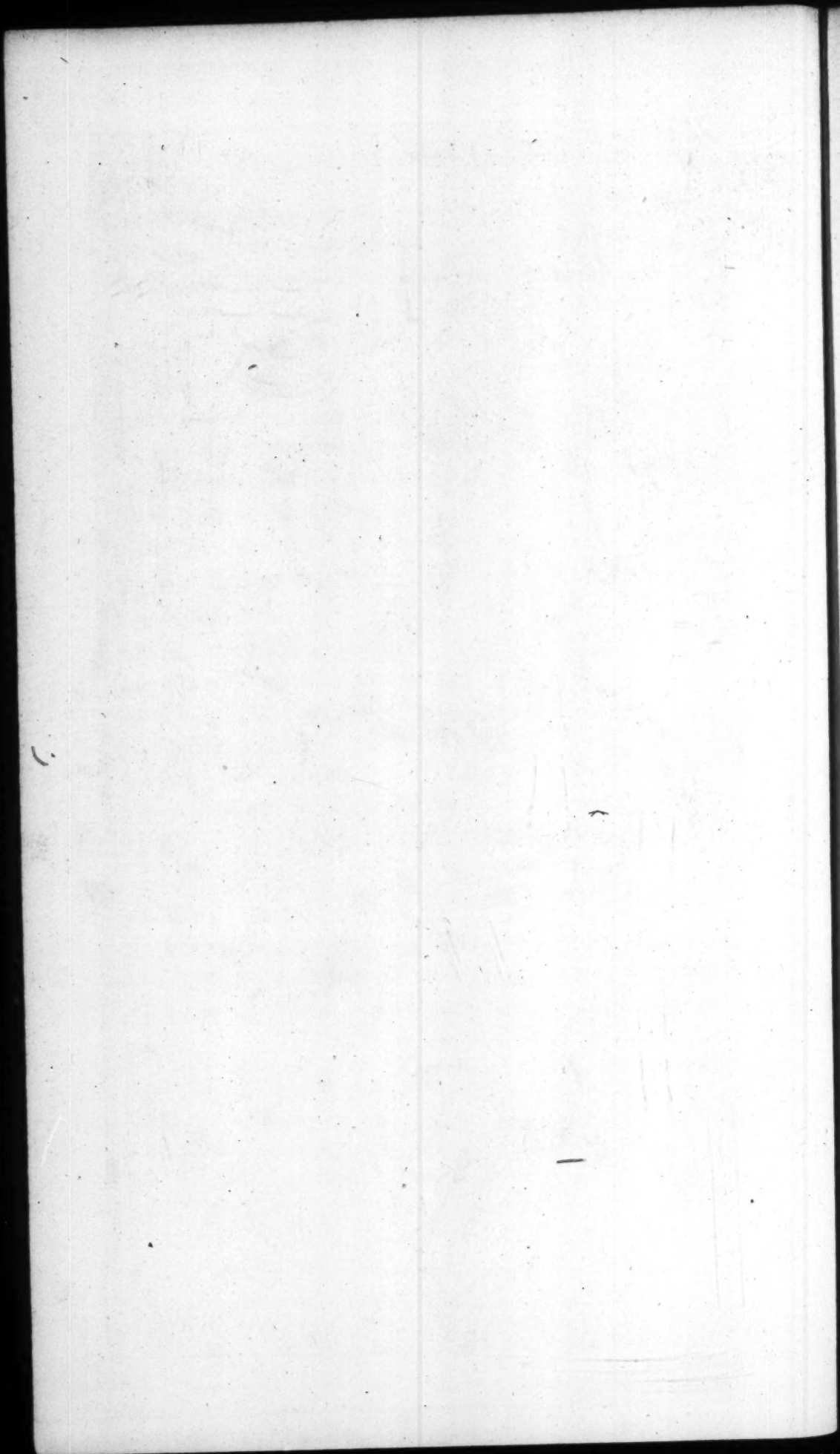
AMONGST other remains of that once great people, the Romans, (great in the sense of *powerful* only, as doctor Hakewel * has abundantly shown; but whose moral and national character few thinking men admire) mention has been made in the extracts from Leland and doctor Stukeley, of their ornamented pavements.

Leland, and his editor Thomas Hearne, both speak of one of those pavements that had been found in a meadow in the midst of the old town. This is the same place which doctor Stukeley calls the Leauses, and which are at present known by that name. Leland does not describe it particularly, but calls it a flore *de tessellis versicoloribus*, in a strange kind of mixture or hotch-potch of latin with english, which was formerly the manner of writing with some learned men, and which, perhaps, in honour of Leland, who was indeed a very learned and judicious person, has been adopted by certain individuals ever since his time, for

* Apology for the power of God in the government of the world.



Remains of a Tessellated Pavement, in the House of the late John Smith, Esq. at Cirencester.



the true and genuine antiquarian stile. But this by the bye only. It has been shown, that Sir Robert Atkyns also speaks very obscurely of this work, calling it a building under ground, inlaid with tesseraic work. But doctor Stukeley more expressly says that a fine mosaic * pavement was dug up there in September, 1723. Hence it may be observed, that these gentlemen probably speak of the same pavement, whose ruins and dice-like stones we saw scattered amongst heaps of bricks and pottery, as mentioned in our account of the Hypocaust, and therefore it is unnecessary to say any more of it here. But many other such pavements have been since discovered in different parts of the present town.

We are credibly informed, that a very fine one was dug up in the garden belonging to doctor Small's house in Dyer-street, called Archibald's; and that another was found, something more than twenty years ago, in digging the vault under the shambles at the Boothall. But of two others, having seen them, we can speak with the greatest certainty.

One of them was discovered in May 1777, in digging a cellar under the present warehouse belonging

* Mosaic (from the French *mosaiques*, supposed to be corrupted from the Latin *musæus*) is a kind of painting in small pebbles, bricks, cockles, and shells of sundry colours; and of late days likewise with pieces of glass, figured at pleasure; an ornament of much beauty and long continuance; but of most use in pavements and floorings.

to Mess. Robert and William Croome, in Dyer-street. It was about sixteen or eighteen feet square, of which the workmen had destroyed nearly half before it was observed. The remainder was in good preservation, and being well cleansed, was exposed for a few days to public view. It had a chequered border round it, of fourteen inches breadth, composed of blue and white stones of about three quarters of an inch square. The pavement was divided into four equal compartments, by the artful arrangement and disposition of the different coloured materials, into lines of hearts linked together, or rather interlaced fretwise, which had a very pretty effect. There was a central piece, consisting of an octagon wreathed border, inclosing a star with wavy rays, directed to the angles of the octagon; and it had also a small figure, of the same kind, in the middle of each compartment. All besides, within the borders and compartments, consisted of chequered-work, composed of square blue and white stones and red bricks, but much smaller than those of which the borders consisted. The whole together resembled a rich carpet, the first idea of which was most probably suggested by a work of this kind. Mr. Croome had the central piece taken up, and it remained for some time entire at the entrance into the garden from his dwelling-house, where it served for a part of the pavement; but being much exposed to the weather, it was gradually broken and destroyed.

The pavement, which lay about six feet below the surface of the street, was accompanied by the plaistered

tered walls of the room to which it belonged, and which evidently appeared to have been painted; but the figures were so decayed, perhaps fourteen hundred years old, that no idea of the subject could be formed. It is very remarkable, that the side of the pavement which had the smallest obliquity with Dyer-street formed an angle with it of about thirty degrees. Eight or ten yards north-eastward of this pavement, the workmen found an old road, upon a level with it, and running parallel with two sides of it. From this circumstance it appears, that antiently the street lay much lower than it now does, and in a very different direction from that of Dyer-street at present.

Another of these pavements was discovered in digging a cellar to a house in the same street, formerly belonging to the respectable family of the Georges, but now the property and residence of Mrs. Smith, relict of John Smith, esq. Part of this is still preserved, and the proprietor very politely permits it to be seen at proper times by curious strangers. An exact engraving of what remains of it is here annexed, which renders verbal description unnecessary. In several places, within three or four miles of the town, where the Romans are supposed to have had out-posts, several other such pavements have been found; in the year 1636, one was discovered by people at plow in Hocbury-field, in the parish of Rodmarton, as we have seen it recorded in the parish-register; and another lately at a place called Ainge's-ash, in Oakley-wood,

ley-wood, about three miles from the town; and undoubtedly more of them, with other antiquities, are left within and without the town for future ages to discover.

Antiquaries divide these ornamented pavements into two classes. The nobler sort, which have usually the figure of Apollo, or some other deity, represented on them, are called *Magalographia*, and make the first class. The other class, called *Ropographia*, consists of those on which are representations of inferior beings, and devices, such as those which we have been just now describing. They were the floors of the halls and principal rooms of the chief magistrates and great men, formerly resident in the places where they are found.

We have been the more minute on this subject, in order to show that Cirencester was a place of great consequence in the time of the Romans, as appears by these remains, which could belong to the houses of persons of eminence only. And if besides the before mentioned, we make a proper allowance for other ornamented pavements, which in the course of so many ages may have been destroyed, and for some which may still remain undiscovered; those which have come to our knowledge may not be a tenth part of what the Romans left behind them.

The learned authors before-mentioned speak much of the Roman coins which have been found here,
chiefly

chiefly of Antoninus, Dioclesian and Constantine; and observe that most of these, with abundance of rings and intaglio's, are lost; but it is neither absurd nor unreasonable to suppose, as we think the fact really is, that the greater part are still preserved in the cabinets of the curious; but through length of time, which casts a veil over every thing, their relation to this place, as having been found here, may neither appear in writing, nor be conveyed down to us by tradition.

Of four Roman or Consular Ways.

FOUR great Roman * ways meet here, of which we shall take occasion to make only a few short remarks. We begin with

1. The Foss, so called by way of eminence, as being of greater extent than any other. It proceeds from Scotland, and passing southward, enters Gloucestershire at the village of Lemington; and proceeding onwards in the same direction thro' Morton-hen-Marsh, and Stow-on-the-Wold, leaves Bourton-on-the-Water about half a mile on the eastward. It passes by Northleach, and crossing the little river

* The Foss, on the west of Cirencester, as far as Bath, is by some writers called the Acmanstreet-way, and thus Leland makes the number of the Roman ways meeting at Cirencester to be four. See Itinerary, 1st v. p. 119.

Coln at a place called Fofs-bridge, falls into the Ickenild-way about half a mile eastward from Cirencester. For a great part of its course through Gloucestershire, it is still conspicuous in a broad and high ridge of durable materials, to which its preservation may be attributed, rather than to the prudent care of those who reside in the neighbourhood of its course, and who most use it.

2. The Ickenild-way. This antient road crosseth Oxfordshire, and coming to Broadwell-grove, where it is high and very perfect, enters Gloucestershire at the parish of Eastleach. Proceeding in a straight direction, it receives the great Fofs-way, which falls in with it about half a mile eastward of Cirencester, as already observed.

3. The Acmanstreet is that part of the Fofs leading westward from Cirencester, and four miles distant from the town, crosses a little hollow, vulgarly called Jacaman's-bottom, but more truly Acman's-bottom. At a small distance from thence it enters Wiltshire, near Kemble, in its straight course to Bath, the Acmanchester * of the Saxons.

4. The Irminstreet is another of the great Roman ways. There is some doubt with topographers concerning it; but most are of opinion that it is that which leads from Caerleon, in Monmouthshire, thro'

* Acemannes-caestre, Acmanni civitas. Sic dicta quasi urbs hominum ægrotantium; à valetudinariorum ad thermas concursu, hodie Bathe, in agro Sumursætensi. Explanation of names in Sax. Chron.

Gloucester, Cirencester and Cricklade, and so on to Southampton *. This road, in many parts for about ten miles from Cirencester towards Gloucester, maintains a great degree of its original prominent and convex form; but the remainder of it, from the bottom of Birdlip-hill to Gloucester, has been so cut through and destroyed, that there is little or nothing of it to be seen. This part, however, is remarkably straight, but in other respects a perfect contrast to the

* In an essay concerning the four great Roman ways, at the end of the 6th vol. of Leland's Itinerary, Mr. Camden is quoted for his observation, (p. 240) that 'Several towns lye on and near the last mentioned causeway, that retain the word *Sarn* in their names, as *Sharncoate* and *South Sarney*, between Creeklade and Cirencester, and *North Sarney* about two miles above the latter upon the river Churn, and *Sharnton* about three miles from Gloucester. All which have taken their appellations from the British word *Sarn*, which imports *stratum*, or *pavimentum*, and in Wales we have such an one called *Sarn Helen* to this day.' But we differ in opinion from that learned antiquary, respecting the names of the above places. The *Cerneys* were antiently written, as they now are, with *C*, and not with *S*, and we apprehend the name to have taken its origin from the river *Corin* or *Churn*, and to signify the same as *Churn-ey*, or the *Churn-water*, for they are both seated on the river Churn, one south of Cirencester, as the other is north of the same town. And as to *Sharncoate*, which is adjoining to South Cerney, on the contrary side of it from the Roman road, we suppose it to be nothing more than *Cerney-coed*, so called from the British word *coed*, which signifies *wood*, as having been antiently a woody place.

Roman model. It is a mere ditch and wash-way, and sometimes almost impassable for a considerable length, which is the more remarkable, as there is a great deal of travelling, and much money collected upon it, being the turnpike-road from Gloucester to London, and to Cirencester; and it must be acknowledged, that the commissioners have had ample time and experience for repairing it, since the first turnpike act for that purpose passed as long ago as 1698. This is not said invidiously, but as a hint to them, that a small part ought to be widened, and the whole raised in the middle to keep it dry, with a passage for the water on one or both sides of it.

The notion which some have entertained of these roads having been thrown up by one Mulmutius, before the birth of Christ, has been long since exploded. Isidore gives testimony, that *highways were made almost all over the world by the Romans*, in which they employed the soldiery and the people, to prevent their growing factious, which in a conquered country commonly happens during a series of tranquility and ease. And there are antient records which state, that in the days of Honorius and Arcadius, highways were made in Britain from sea to sea. This was not the work of a day, but industriously prosecuted under several reigns. Tacitus relates, that whilst Agricola governed Britain, several of their ways were made for a communication between their stations and wintering places, and that the Britons complained that the
Romans

Romans wore them out with fatigue, in clearing of woods, and paving the fens, which was enforced with a thousand stripes and reproachful indignities.

And here it may be proper to observe, that we derive the custom of placing mile-stones on our turnpike-roads from the Romans; for at the end of every mile along their great roads, pillars were erected, with figures cut in them to signify the number of miles from one place to another. Hence these lines in Siodonius Apollinaris:

*Antiquus tibi nec teratur agger,
Cujus per spatium satis vetustis
Nomen Cæsareum viret columnis.*

Nor let the antient causey be defaced,
Where, in old pillars, Cæsar's name's express'd.

By the sides of them were the graves and monuments of famous men, to remind the traveller of his own mortality; whence arose that usual apostrophe, *Siste viator*, on monumental inscriptions in churches, an expression not altogether apposite to the situation.

Consistently with our purpose of treating of the Roman antiquities distinctly from others, it will be proper here to take notice of a place in the Querns, just without the town, on the south-west side, called

The Bull-Ring.

THIS is an area, of an elliptical form, inclosed with a mound or wall of earth, of the height of about

K 2

twenty

twenty feet, very regularly sloped on the inside with rows of seats, like steps, one below another from top to bottom. They are still visible, but over-grown with herbage, and something defaced by time. The longest diameter of the area is about sixty-three yards, the other forty-six. It has one avenue to it on the east side, and another on the west; and there is also a straight approach to it under ground, on the south side, between stone walls, about two feet and a half asunder. It points to the center of the area, and seems to be of late addition. This is so exactly coincident with the amphitheatre of the antients, that if it be not a Roman work, (and the materials of which it is composed furnish no reasonable doubt against such a conjecture) it was evidently intended for public spectacles and exhibitions, such as tilts and tournaments, antient stage-plays, and public diversions. But tradition is entirely silent about it, nor has any topographer taken the least notice of it. From the name, however, it may be inferred, that it has sometimes been used for that barbarous diversion of bull-baiting, now so justly exploded and laid aside; but that could not be the use of it in the first intention. Mr. Whitfield preached to a numerous audience in this place, when he was so much followed in this country about the year 1742; and certainly there could not be found a more commodious spot for his purpose.

A Rossi-

A Rosicrusian Story.

THUS far have we accompanied the reader thro' a dark labyrinth of Roman antiquities, distinguishing, to the best of our judgment, between idle fiction, and what ought to be received for historic verity. And here we might close the account of Roman affairs; but under this head we are tempted to add one article more, from the very extraordinary circumstances of the narrative, which is preserved in the Bodleian library, among the papers of doctor Richard Parsons *.

The paper alluded to, as appears at the foot of it, was printed for William Budden, near Fleet Bridge, 1685, and is intituled, *A wonderful Discovery newly made of Houses under Ground, at Colton-field, in Gloucestershire*; and thus it runs:

“ In a piece of ground within two miles of Cirencester, in the county of Gloucester, commonly known by the name of Colton's-field, as two labourers were digging a gravel-pit at the foot of a hill, which they had now sunk four yards deep, they observed the

* He was chancellor of the diocese of Gloucester, and vicar of Driffild, a village about four miles from Cirencester; and having made some Historical Collections concerning the civil and ecclesiastical state of his diocese, died in the year 1711.

ground

ground on that side next the hill to be loose, and presently discovered an entrance into the belly of the hill; which appearing very strange to them, and rather the work of art than nature, one of them ventured a little way in, and by the light from the hole, discovered a large cavity, whereupon they got a lanthorn and candle, to make a further search into it. By the advantage of this light, the first place they entered appeared to have been a hall, which was large, and in it two long tables, with benches on each side, which they no sooner touched to feel their substance, but they crumbled into dust.

From thence they saw a passage into another room, which by the furniture had been a kitchen. Several utensils proper to it, as pots, kettles, &c. being of brass or iron, continued somewhat firm, but eaten through with rust, and canker.

Beyond the hall, they went into a parlour, furnished according to the fashion of those times, with carpets richly wrought, and other furniture agreeable. These also fell to pieces upon their touching them. At one corner of this room, there appeared to have been a pair of stairs, but the earth had fallen in, and stopt the ascent.

Going back into the hall, they observed another opening, which led them into a square room, ornamented with carved work in several parts, supposed to have been a place of worship and devotion, by images in the wall; and at the upper end of it, they found several urns, some of which had only ashes in them,

them, others were filled with coins and medals of gold, silver and brass, with latin inscriptions, and heads of several Roman emperors.

As they went searching about this room, they spy'd a door, which had been strongly patched with iron, but the wood being rotten, with a little force it fell a-pieces; and looking in, to their great astonishment, they saw the image of a man in full proportion, with a truncheon in his hand, and a light in a glass, like a lamp, burning before him. This very much affrighted them at first, imagining it to be the devil in that shape, or a guardian spirit set there to defend some hidden treasure; the hopes whereof so far encouraged them at last, that one of them ventured a step in. But upon his first descent, the image seemed to strike at him, at which they were both so terrified, that they durst proceed no further; but went back, and taking many of the medals and coins with them out of the urns, at night acquainted a gentleman, who is a famous antiquary, with the discovery they had made, what they had seen, and the money they had found, shewing him several pieces; upon which he ordered them to keep the matter private, promising to go with them the next morning, which he accordingly did.

After he had viewed the other rooms with wonder and delight, they conducted him to the place where the image was, which he supposed might, by some great artist, be made to strike at certain times; therefore, without any apprehension of danger, went in; and as before, upon his first step the image made an offer

offer to strike; so at the second step, but with a greater force. At the third step, it struck a violent blow on the glass where the light was, which broke it in pieces, and quite extinguished it, [the light] that had they not been furnished with a lanthorn and candle, their condition would have been desperate.

The image appeared to have been the effigy of some Roman general, by those ensigns of martial honour which lay at his feet. On the left hand lay two heads embalmed. The flesh was shrivelled up, and looked like parchment scorched, of a dark complexion. They had long hair on the chin; one seemed to be red, the other black.

Upon further search, were found several other passages leading to other houses, or different rooms of the same house; but a hollow voice, like a deep sigh or groan, prevented any other discovery. Our adventurers hastily quitted those dark apartments, which they had no sooner done, than the hill sunk down, and buried all the rarities, except those medals and coins taken out the night before, which are now shown for the satisfaction of the curious and ingenious, who in great numbers flock to see them, and purchase them at great rates, as most valuable relicks of antiquity."

Whatever respectability this narrative may be thought to derive from being found amongst the doctor's papers, and treasured up with them in a great repository of learning, yet we have given it room in our pages, only as an extraordinary story; and must observe

observe, that the circumstance of the burning lamp is particularly objectionable. And tho' some late very extraordinary pieces of mechanism may dispose us to think that what is here said of the striking automaton, may be within the pale of possibility, yet it is the less credible for being found in bad company. We have found no traces of the facts either in tradition or history, except only that in the 379th number of the Spectator there is a fabulous account of Rosicrucius's sepulchre, with a man in armour, and a lamp before him, described nearly after the tenor of our story, but a little abbreviated. However, if any person should be disposed to apply any of the circumstances to a large and lofty tumulus near the town, called Tor-barrow-hill, which was opened about a dozen years ago, and nothing found in it but a small coin and a large square stone, and should therefore think that it had been formerly explored, and its contents taken away; it may be objected, that the name of the field in which the tumulus stands, and the distance from the town (about a quarter of a mile) are discordant with the distance and name of the field in the printed paper.

Some account has been given of monumental stones and urns found westward of the town in a piece of uneven ground adjoining to it, called the *Querns*, which doctor Stukeley on that account seems to think was antiently the common burying place. And to this we will subjoin, that about forty years since a large stone coffin was dug up, just without the same

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piece

piece of ground, on the side of the road leading to Tetbury, in which was found a human skeleton, with the head between the legs, and a sword placed on the right side.

Tho' Mr. Camden has shewn that large heaps of stones, confusedly piled up together, are common in many parts of our island; and is of opinion, that most of them were intended for memorials of the dead, because it was antiently the custom to throw up large heaps of stones for sepulchral monuments; yet we are far from thinking that the heaps of stones and rubbish in the *Querns* are so many funeral piles; but rather that they were raised in digging materials, perhaps for the city wall, as well as other large buildings, which required vast quantities of stone. However, these heaps appear to have given name to the place, for *Karneu*, *Karned-heu*, and *Kairn*, in the British language signify *a heap of stones*.—We shall only add, that whensoever, or by what means, or by what people, or for what purpose soever these hillocks were formed, they have been long since covered with verdure, and are now depastured upon by cattle.

Grismond's Tower, &c.

ABOUT a quarter of a mile westward of the town, a little within earl Bathurst's park, is *Grismond's Tower*, vulgarly called *Christmas Tower*. It is a large round tumulus, thrown up to the height of about
twenty

twenty feet. Beneath this mount, Allen lord Bathurst dug an ice-house, more than twenty years ago; but the tumulus had been opened some years before, when several very large urns, full of ashes and burnt bones, were found within it, and the earth and stones very much burnt for a considerable space about.

On such an event, a thinking inquisitive mind is employed to investigate who were the proprietaries of the bones, and what bodies the ashes were a part of. It interests itself in the time, the occasion, and all circumstances of the awful deposite. But where neither history nor tradition gives light, knowledge must be imperfect; and we must stop at probability and conjecture, when certainty is not attainable.

In Britain, urn-burial, or burning the dead, was not confined to the Romans, for we learn from Pomponius, that the Druids used to burn and bury; and it is affirmed that Bellinus, brother to Brennus, was burnt. The Saxons, Jutes, and Angles came from parts where burning was antiently practised; and according to Tacitus the Germans used it, from whom they descended. Cæsar says that burning was practised in Gaul. The Romans adopted the practice of urn-burial from the Greeks, and so it came into use among the *Celtæ*, in the western world.

In Denmark and Norway, many urns have been found, but very different from those used by the Romans, as may be seen in Wormius; whence it should seem that the Danes very antiently burned the dead. Indeed Frotho the Great made a law, that

princes and great commanders should be committed to the fire, tho' the common ranks had grave-interment. It was also the custom of those people to distinguish the remains of the most noble among them, by placing stones in circles about them.

Since, therefore, the practice of burning the dead was in some use among the Britons; and common to the Romans, Saxons and Danes, by whom at different periods this country has been over-run; it may be doubtful to which of them these remains belong. In order the better to determine that matter, it may be proper to enquire when it began, and when it ceased.

The practice of burning is very antient. Homer has given many beautiful descriptions of the funeral obsequies of Patroclus, Achilles, Hector, and other chiefs among the Greeks and Trojans. But when, and with what nation or people, it originated, we have not been able to discover; and perhaps the precise time of its ceasing in Europe is not altogether certain. Macrobius affirms, that it was disused in his days; and in Minutius's time, it was objected against the christians, that tho' they did not hesitate, for the cause of religion, to give their bodies to be burnt when alive, yet they condemned the practice of burning after death; so that it may with great probability be concluded, that the practice ceased about the time of conversion to christianity. And it is pretty generally agreed, that it was discontinued among the Romans, after the reign of those emperors who assumed

sumed the name of Antoninus; but whether then left off by the emperors and great persons, or about Rome only, and not in other provinces, there is perhaps no authentic account.

We have shewn that burning the dead was in some use even among the Britons, and that it was common with the Romans, Saxons and Danes, by whom, at different times, this country has been over-run. This was necessary, in order to investigate to what people these relicks belong. But tho' some instances are mentioned of the Druids adopting that mode of interment, we apprehend that it was never prevalent with our countrymen, for there is no historical evidence of their conforming to the Roman usage of urn-burial, whilst that people continued among them. And since it may be presumed, from what we have shewn, that it had ceased here, before either the Saxons or Danes had gained any settlement in this country; we cannot attribute these remains to either of those people. But the situation of the tumulus, which is only at a small distance from the town, where was a Roman garrison, is a circumstance which furnishes no obscure conjecture, that they belonged to the Romans: And the earth being so much burnt for a great space about, affords reasonable ground to suppose, that this was the *Ustrina*, or burning place, where the urns, with the remains of some persons of eminence among them, were deposited.

What gave rise to the practice of burning the dead is not altogether certain; but as all customs are

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founded

founded upon some reason, so various grounds are assigned for this. Quintilian says, it was because by such means the body may be presently consumed. Others have thought it an expedient to avoid a degeneration into worms, and to preserve, in their ashes, a lasting part of their composition; whilst others say, that it was to disappoint the cruelty of enemies, to whom the bodies of the dead not unfrequently became objects of implacable revenge. This was a consideration with Sylla, who having abused the corse of Marius, could not but fear a retaliation upon his own. But the Indian who is said to have burnt himself at Athens, thought it the noblest way to end his days, as appears by his last words upon the pyre, *Thus I make myself immortal*, which, according to Nich. Damascensis, was inscribed on his tomb.

The friends of great princes affect great monuments for them, and we conjecture, that the fairer and larger urns contained the ashes of no vulgar persons, which makes that disparity in the capacity of those found among us. Some contain more than two gallons, others not one. Many are red, some of a dark colour, smoothish, and of a dull sound, as tho' they had not been burnt, but only baked in an oven, or dried in the sun. They are of various shapes, but mostly of a circular form. We have mentioned one found at King'smead, (p. 59) a little without Cirencester town-wall, which was carefully arched over; but some are covered with tiles, or Roman bricks, and others have proper earthen covers adapted to them.

They

They are sometimes attended with lachrymatories, or tear-bottles, lamps, rings, coins, chalices, darts, and pieces of broken armour; and indeed with various other things, which it is supposed the dead person greatly valued when alive. It has been conjectured that the money was intended as a fee for old Charon, who, according to heathen mythology, was to carry men's souls in his boat over the Stygian lake. But whatever was the design, the depositing coins in urns, and the present practice of burying money in the foundations of noble buildings, are laudable means of chronological discovery, and posterity will applaud them.

It has been observed, that the extraordinary size of urns may be attributed to the dignity of the persons whose ashes they contain, but not always so, for it is obvious, that it may be sometimes merely casual, according to the fancy of the potter, and indeed other circumstances may operate as a cause. Some large urns contained the ashes of several bodies. The ashes of Domitian were mingled with those of Julia *; of Achilles with those of Patroclus. With confused burnings they affectionately compounded the bones of their friends, and passionately endeavoured to continue their union. And it is said that when distance of place at the time of death precluded such conjunctions, they sometimes put the names of deceased friends into urns, and their extraordinary affections

* Suetonius in the life of Domitian.

conceived some gratification in so placing them urn by urn, and so making them neighbours in the grave. And many were so anxious to preserve a connexion with relations after death, that they had large family urns †, wherein the ashes of their nearest friends and kindred might successively be received, whilst their memorials were placed near about them.

The honour of cremation was denied to infants before they cut their teeth, to such as killed themselves, to such as were killed by lightning, and to traitors. The concern of the living for the dead seems to be an appendage of humanity, for something of it is found among all the inhabitants of the earth. Abraham purchased a burying place where he was buried with Sarah his wife. The Otaheitans have their morais; the modern Europeans their family vaults exclusive from strangers.

With the Romans, at the approach of death, it was customary for the nearest relation to suck in the last breath of an expiring friend, from an opinion that the soul passed out that way, and to show how unwillingly they parted with their friends. They kept the body seven days, washing it every day with warm water, that if not quite dead, it might by such means revive. Upon the eighth day a cryer summoned the people to the solemnization of the funeral, and the corpse was carried out upon a bed by the next of kin, a trumpeter going before the company, and the

† Casaubon upon Antoninus.

mourning

mourning-women, called *Præfica*, following after, singing songs in praise of the deceased. If the defunct were a man who had been a senator, or great officer, ensigns of honour, and waxen images of his predecessors, were carried on poles before him; and his manumised servants, accompanied the mourners, lamenting his death. The corpse, followed by the children of the deceased, and the nearest relations and friends, was carried to the *rostra*, or oratory, where one of the kindred made a funeral oration in praise of the defunct. When that was over, it was laid upon a heap of wood, neatly piled up, which they called the *pyra*, its eyes were then opened towards heaven, and a piece of money called *Naulum Charontis*, put into its mouth, which, according to their mythology, was Charon's fee for ferrying the soul over the Styx. The next of kin then kindled the fire with a torch, turning his face the contrary way, as a token of unwilling ministration: and the body being burnt, the remains of the bones, washed with milk and wine, together with some of the ashes, were put into urns. The priest then sprinkled the company thrice with clean water, and the eldest of the mourning-women with a loud voice pronounced the word *Illicet*, [for *ire licet*] dismissing the company; but before they departed, they pronounced a solemn valediction in these words: *Vale, vale, vale!!! Nos te ordine quo natura permiserit sequemur*. Farewel! Farewel! Farewel! We shall follow thee in time and manner as nature shall direct.

This

This valediction, thrice uttered, bears some analogy to the custom, among us, of throwing earth three times upon the corpse in the grave, at a particular passage in the burial service. But to return:

It is said that they threw on the funeral pyre branches of larynx, yew, cypress and fir, which having perpetual verdure, are thought to bear some allusion to the immortality of the soul. They used music to alleviate the affliction of friends who were present; and to prevent excessive lamentation, it was strongly inculcated, and became a generally received opinion, that deep sorrow disturbed the *manes* of the deceased; but surviving friends kindled no fire in their houses for some days after, as a token of affliction. Wives were expected to mourn for their husbands ten months, within which time it was reckoned infamous for widows to marry. After the funeral obsequies, the company were invited to a feast, where they drank a delicious kind of wine called *Murrhina*; but in process of time that custom was forbidden by the law of the twelve Tables, on account of the expence. In this respect the people of our own country have followed their example; and in some parts, even at this time, it is not unusual for the guests to assemble at the house from whence the corpse had just been taken, and to debauch with drinking in a shameful manner. We believe, however, that this abominable practice is much less frequent than formerly.

From

From this account of pagan ceremonies and customs, which we have drawn from the purest sources, it is manifest that they had a faint expectancy of some kind of intellectual state after this. In treating on a subject so solemn and awful, we found it impossible to avoid similar reflections with those who have gone over the same ground before us; but we forbear to trouble the reader with them, as it might be thought a deviation from our professed design.

To sum up all, our research amounts to this, that Grismond's Tower is a large tumulus, and that the urns which were found under it, were placed there by the Romans, and probably contained the remains of some eminent persons of that nation, who belonged to the Roman station here. This we think a warrantable conjecture; but as we have no account of those who died in the garrison, to go further, and to guess whose remains they were, without any leading principle, would be arrogance and folly.



CHAP. III.

Of the antient Collegiate Church.

HERE was a rich college of prebendaries before the Norman conquest, but all our researches to discover the founder of it have proved abortive. Leland, as before observed, was one of the king's visitors at the suppression of monasteries, whose business, as well as taste and inclination, led him to make a strict enquiry into the original foundation and endowment of all religious houses, and who had better opportunities of doing it at that time, than any person since. He takes notice of this, as of Saxon institution, and adds, *but of what Saxon foundation no man can tell.*

Before the Norman conquest, one Rumbaldus, Reimbaldus, or Reinbaldus, as the name has been variously written, was a priest and dean of this collegiate church. He was a very eminent person of that time, and chancellor to king Edward the Confessor; and as such, set his hand to witness the charter of privileges granted by that king to the abbey of Westminster. Besides his ecclesiastical and other preferments, he had large possessions in various parts of the

the kingdom, but particularly in Gloucestershire, and at a considerable time after his decease they were given to this church, as will more particularly appear by the charter of king Henry the First.

In Domesday-book, which contains a survey and register of all the landed property in the kingdom, (except four northern counties) made soon after William the Norman found himself pretty well settled here, the possessions of this church which lay in Gloucestershire, with those of Rembald the dean, in the same county, are thus particularly enumerated:

TERRA ECCL'E DE CIRECESTRE.

In CIRECESTRE Hund. Eccl'a de CIRECESTRE ten. de rege ii hid. in Elemosina & de rege E. Tenuit quietas ab om'i consuetudine. Ibi sunt vi ac. p'ti. Val. & valuit hoc xl sol. In hac t'ra [i. e. de Wiche] ten. S. Maria de Cirecestre i vill'm et partem filve. Hoc concessit ei W. rex. Val. x sol.

TERRA RENBALDI PR'BI.

In GERSDONES Hund. Reinbaldus ten. OMENIE de rege. Godricus tenuit T. R. E. Ibi iiii hide & una v'. In d'nio ii car. & viii vill'i & i bord. cum vi car. & p'bro. Ibi viii servi & ii molini de x solid. & xx ac. p'ti. Val. & valuit c solid.

Ild. Reinbaldus ten. DRIFELLE. Elaf tenuit de Comite Tosti. Ibi vii hide. In d'nio iiii car. & viii vill'i & ii bord. & p'br cum v car. Ibi xv servi
M & molin.

& molin. de v solid. & xx ac. p'ti. Val. & valuit viii lib.

In CIRECESTRE Hund. Isd. Rainbaldus ten. in NORTCOTE i hid. Godricus tenuit T. R. E. In d'nio est una car. & ii vill'i & ii bord. cum ii car. Ibi vi servi. Val. xl solid. Hic tainus poterat ire quo valebat.

Isd. Rainb. ten. PRESTETUNE. Elaf tenuit T. R. E. Ibi viii hide geld. p'ter d'nium. In d'nio sunt iiii car. & vii vill'i & vi bord. cum vi car. Ibi viiii servi & xii ac. p'ti. Val. & valuit viii lib. Ipse Elaf poterat ire quo voleb.

The foregoing may be rendered into English thus:

The land of the Church of Cirecestre.

In Cirecestre hundred the church of Cirecestre holds of the king two hides in elemosinage; and it held them of king Edward, quit from all custom. There are six acres of meadow. It is now worth, and was worth [in the time of king Edward the Confessor] forty shillings. St. Mary of Cirecestre holds one villain and part of a wood in this estate [Wiche, or Painswick.] It was given to her by king William. It is worth ten shillings [rent.]

The land of Reinbald the priest.

In Gersdones hundred, [part of the present hundred of Crowthorne and Minety] Reinbald holds Omenie of the king. Godric held it in the time of king Edward. There are four hides and one yard land.

land. In demean are two plow tillages, and eight villains, and one bordar, with six plow tillages, and a priest. There are eight *servi*, and two mills of ten shillings value [rent,] and twenty acres of meadow. It is now worth, and was worth a hundred shillings [rent.]

The same Reinbald holds Drifelle. Elaf held it of earl Tofti. There are seven hides. In demean four plow tillages and eight villains and two bordars, and a priest with five plow tillages. There are fifteen *servi* and a mill of five shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow. It is worth and was worth eight pounds.

In Cireceftre hundred the same Rainbald holds one hide in Nortcote. Godric held it in the time of king Edward. There is one plow tillage in demean, and two villains and two bordars with two plow tillages. There are six *servi*. It is worth forty shillings rent. This thane might go wherever he pleased.

The same Rainbald holds Prestetune. Elaf held it in the time of king Edward. There are eight hides taxed besides the demean. There are four plow tillages in demean, and seven villains, and six bordars with six plow tillages. There are nine *servi*, and twelve acres of meadow. It is now worth and was worth eight pounds [rent.] This Elaf had a right to go where he pleased.

Before we proceed, it may not be amiss to observe, that the meaning of the last passage, is, that Elaf was a free man, whereas at that time the bulk of the occupiers of land were attached to it, and so a kind of

property belonging to the lords of the respective manors upon which they lived.

These were large possessions, but it may be difficult at this time to estimate the quantity of land, because we are not sufficiently acquainted with the land measures used by our ancestors, to compare them with our own. According to Spelman, eight *virgæ*, or virgates, made a hide; but the *virga*, or virgate of land, was an uncertain measure, because it was different in different places. It sometimes consisted of 24 acres, sometimes of 30, 40, and sometimes only of 20, or less. A farthing land was, like the other measures of our ancestors, very various; sometimes consisting of 10 acres, and sometimes of 30. But tho', at this time, we cannot ascertain the exact quantity of land in a hide, yet Rumbald's estate must have been great, at the lowest computation. At the death of this great man, all his estates devolved to the crown, the particulars of which are enumerated in the charter of king Henry the First, which is recited in the charter of confirmation by king Edward the Third, to the abbey, which comes next under consideration.

Of the Abbey of St. Mary, Cirencester.

KING Henry the First founded a noble abbey here, upon the abolition of the collegiate-church. He
began

began to build the abbey church in the year 1117, and it was completely finished in fourteen years.

This was a mitred abbey. The abbat was summoned to parliament in the forty-third year of king Henry the Third, but the heads of this house had not a stated seat there, 'till William Best obtained the mitre, and a seat among the barons, for himself and successors, in the year 1416.

The arms of the abbey were, *Gules, on a chevron argent, three rams heads caboshed sable, attired or.* And they are now to be seen at the entrance on the west side of the tower of the present parish church.

Some have conjectured that the abbat had the privilege of coining money, which notion probably arose from some small brass pieces having been found here at different times, (tho' rarely) one of which we have seen. It was dug up in Mr. Master's garden, within the precincts of the abbey, in the year 1772, and had on one side *three rams heads*, (part of the arms of the abbey) and round them this inscription, **AVE · MARIA · GRACIA · PLEN.** On the reverse, *a cross flory between four fleurs de lis*; with the letters **G · · A · · G · · A.** round the quarters, intended, as we conjecture, for *George, abbas*; and if so, it was impressed between the years 1445 and 1461, during which time William George * was abbat.

* "It was certainly," says one of Bigland's compilers, "the coinage of Best, Wotton, or George, but of which it
" cannot

bat. These pieces however, if not current money, were probably checks, which were formerly in use by monastic societies.

Leland, who saw the abbey church, has left us the following particulars distinguished in Italics, and exactly copied from the Itinerary, vol. 5, p. 62. *The East part of the Chirch shewith to be of a very old building. The West part, from the Transeptum, [the great cross aile] is but new Work to speke of. In the Body of the [abbey] Chirch, in a Sepulchre Crosse of white Marble is this [inscription,] Hic jacet Rembaldus Presbyter quondam hujus Ecclesiæ Decanus [Et Tempore Edwardi Regis Angliæ Cancellarius.] Ther by 2 Noblemen of S. Amandes buried withyn the Presbyterie of Cirencestre Abbay Church. And there is buried the Hart of Sentia, Wife to Richard King of [the] Romaines, and Erle of Cornwallle.*

The dimensions of the abbey church are preserved in William of Worcester's manuscript, in Bennet college Cambridge, where it is said, ' The length of
' the great church contains 140 steppys, the breadth
' of the nave of the church with two ailes, 41 steppys,

" cannot be possibly said."—We reply, that the letters on the reverse (a common method of notation) very strongly indicate the piece to have been struck when William George was abbat: Indeed the letter G can refer to no other name but that of George, in the whole list of abbats. And perhaps that compiler will find it difficult to assign any other reason for lugging in the names of Best and Wotton. To us it seems to proceed from an affectation of singularity and dissension.

' or

‘ or 24 yards. The chapel of the blessed Mary on
‘ the south part of the church contains 41 yards, with
‘ an aile adjoining. The breadth of the said antient
‘ chapel contains 21 *grassus*, with the antient aile.
‘ The length of the cloister 52 *grassus*. The length
‘ of the chapter-house 14 yards, and 10 yards in
‘ breadth.’—The *grassus* or step is something more
than two feet.

This church was dedicated to St. Mary, on the Lord's-day, the 16th of the calends of November, by Bartholomew bishop of Exeter, in the presence of the king, who placed regular canons therein; and having obtained pope Innocent's licence, and the consent and approbation of the archbishops, bishops, princes, and barons of the kingdom, as it is expressed in the exemplification of his charter, endowed it, amongst other things, with all Rembald's estates. And king Richard the First further increased its revenues, in the 9th year of his reign, by annexing to it the jurisdiction of the Seven Hundreds, as appears by the exemplification of that king's charter 4 H. 4. an abstract of which is given in the account of the Seven Hundreds. And king John, in the first year of his reign, confirmed all these grants to the abbey, by his charter, as the reader will see hereafter.

The lands of William of Cirencester, in Minety, were granted to this monastery in the 5th year of the reign of king John; and a new farm was granted to it in the 17th year of the same reign.

This

This monastery obtained a grant of a fair in the town of Cirencester 17th John, and it had another grant of fairs 37 H 3. and of markets there, and in the Seven Hundreds, in the 42d year of the same reign.

A writ of *Quo warranto* was brought against the abbat, to shew his right to the Seven Hundreds, 15 E. 1. But this was probably a vexatious proceeding, not unfrequently in use, to extort money from the subject for new grants, which were thought necessary in those days, when, by casualties in the civil wars, or otherwise, any of the possessor's deeds and evidences happened to be lost or destroyed.

The townsmen and the religious of this monastery falling out afterwards, a strict inquisition issued against the abbat, at the instigation of the townsmen, 1 H. 4. for usurping divers privileges in the towns of Cirencester and Minety, and in the Seven Hundreds.

The abbat of Cirencestre held Crinklewood, containing 30 acres 9 E. 2. And Walter Wrilock and others granted two messuages, one toft, twenty-six acres, a yard-land, four acres of meadow, with other particulars, to the abbey, 13 E. 2. And William Erchebald and others, for the church of Cirencester, were seized of seventeen messuages and twenty acres in Cirencester 16 R. 2. *Esch.*

The abbat paid 30*l.* a year, by *tale*, into the king's exchequer at Michaelmas, for his farm of the manor of Cirencester and the Seven Hundreds. [*Mag. Rot.* 9 R. 1.] And this rent was afterwards settled by king Edward

Edward the First on queen Margaret, as part of her dower. The reader will observe that this rent is expressly mentioned to be paid by *tale*, for the money, in this and the preceding reigns, had been so clipped and reduced, that there was a great difference between payments made by *tale* and by *weight*. The pound of money at that time, undiminished as it came out of the mint, was a pound troy-weight of silver. And it was not unusual, in these early times, to stipulate in grants and leases, (which were in Latin,) how the rents and considerations should be paid; if by *tale*, in the common currency, the pound was called *libra numerata*, *ad numerum*, or *de numero*; if by *weight*, it was then called *libra pensata*, or *ad pensum*. And when payment was to be made in this manner, the deficiency by *tale* was to be made up to the compleat weight. But payments were always understood to be by *tale*, unless expressed in the deed to the contrary.

As to other out-goings, it appears [*Mag. Rot.* 29 *H.* 3] that the abbat paid *xxl.* for an aid to the king, upon the marriage of the king's eldest daughter. And upon a tallage made upon the king's manors, and upon the burgeses, by William bishop of Hereford, and others, 7 *Ric.* 1. the burgeses of Cirencester are certified to have paid the sum of *xl.* *Mag. Rot.* 7 *R.* 1.

There was a deed made in the year 1305, between the abbat and John de Latton, an ancestor of the family of that name, who resided some time since at

N

Kingston

Kingston Bagpaze, in Berkshire, which deed is remarkable for the abbat's concessions, and the following is a translation of it, which we have inserted for the entertainment of such of our readers as are curious that way.

A Grant from Henry de Hamptonel, Abbat of Cirencester, to John de Latton.

TO all christian people who shall either see or hear this present deed, Henry by divine permission, abbat of Cirencester, and the convent of that place, send health in our Lord. Know ye that we have granted to John de Latton and Isabel his wife, in form and under condition following, these several things hereafter specified, to receive every week, so long as they shall jointly live, Fourteen white loaves and nine gallons of beer, whereof five gallons of the beer shall be such as the convent useth, and the other four gallons shall be of the chaplains beer, and they shall receive one mess every day out of our kitchen, in like manner as our day officers do receive it from our house. Provided that if the said Isabel shall survive, that then and immediately from the death of the said John, one moiety of all above granted shall altogether cease. And in consideration of the aforesaid grant, the aforesaid John hath wholly released to us and to our church, and hath quit claimed for himself and his heirs for ever, all right and claim which he had or any way can have, with the reversion thereof, in all the lands and tenements, with all their appertenancies, which Walter father of the said John did hold by lease from us in Latton. And the said John and his heirs shall fully and intirely warrant the said lands and tenements to us and to our church, without any diminution whatsoever. And if it should happen, which we hope will never be, that the said John and Isabel shall

shall any way be deficient in the said warranty, or should lay claim, or pretend any right to the said tenements, that from thenceforth the said abbat and convent shall be for ever discharged from the performance of every part of this grant, without any pretence whatsoever. In witness whereof the parties abovesaid have interchangeably set their seals to this indenture.

Given at Cirencester, at the feast of the purification of the blessed Virgin, in the thirty third year of the reign of king Edward, son of king Henry.

The abbat had some rights in the manor court of Hatherop, particularly specified and mutually settled and agreed, by a composition between Hugh the abbat and the convent of Cirencester, and Wymark the prioress, and the convent of Laycock in Wiltshire, to whom that manor belonged; which composition is preserved in the *Appendix to Stevens's Supplement to the Monasticon*, No. 445.

To give the reader a more competent idea of the revenues of this house, we have subjoined translations of such of the charters, as have come to our hands, as follow :

The Charter of King Edward the III^d, reciting the Foundation of the Priory of Cirencester in the County of Gloucester, and confirming the same.

THE king to archbishops, &c. We have inspected the charter of Henry the First, of famous memory, heretofore king of England, our progenitor, in these words : Henry king

of England, to archbishops, bishops, abbats, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, and all the sons of holy church established throughout England, greeting: Know all men, that I, by the consent and authority of Pope Innocent, of pious memory, and by the advice and common approbation of the archbishops and bishops, princes and barons of my kingdom, have given to God and the church of the blessed Mary of Cirencester, of which I was the unworthy founder, for the good of the souls of my parents and ancestors, and for the remission of my sins, and for the welfare and safety of my kingdom, and to Serlo the first abbat, and to all his successors, and to the regular canons serving God in that place, in pure alms, all the estate of Reimbald the priest, in lands and churches, and other things as followeth; to wit, two hides of land in the town of Cirencester, and the third part of the tolls of the market, which is held on Sunday in the several streets; and two parts of the tithes of the demesnes of Cirencester, and the whole tithe of all the rest of the parish; in Gloucestershire, eight hides of land in Preston, and the church thereof; one hide of land in Norcott, seven hides in Drifeild, four hides and one yard land in Amney, and the church thereof; two hides in Walle, which did belong to Balchi Daci, one hide in Elmundestan, one yard land and a wood in Wik, the church of Chiltenham, with the land thereof, and the mill, and the chapels, and all other appertenancies to the said church belonging; in Wiltshire, nine hides in Latton and Eisy, and the churches of both those places with their land, and the chapel of Eaton which belongs to the church of Eisy; three houses in the town of Cricklade, and the church of Pevesy, with the lands, tithes and customs appertaining to the said church; the church in Avebiry, with the lands, chapels, tithes and customs appertaining to the said church; in Somersetshire, the church of Melborn, with the lands, chapels, tithes and other things belonging to the said church; the church of Frome, with the lands,

lands, chapels, tithes and all other things, whether woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; the church of Walon, with the lands, chapels, tithes and all customs, whether woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; in Dorsetshire, ten hides of land in woods and meadow in Puley; in Berkshire, the church of Scriveham, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all other customs appertaining to the said church; the church of Cocheham, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all other things appertaining to the said church; the church of Bray, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all things appertaining to the said church; ten hides in Eston; eleven hides and three yard lands in Hatcheburne, and the church of the same, with the chapels and tithes of the other Hatcheburne; in Oxfordshire, one hide of land in wood and plains, and one mill in Boicot; the church of Passeham in Buckinghamshire, with the lands, tithes and all things appertaining to the said church; in Northamptonshire, the church of Rowel, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all customs belonging to the said church; the church of Bristoke, with the lands, chapels, tithes, and all customs, whether in woods or plains, appertaining to the said church; three houses in Winton: And I have further granted to the said church of Cirencester, of my own demesnes, for ever, one hide of land in Cirencester, called Scereve-Hide, to make orchards, copses, and a place for a water-mill; and the abbat, Serlo, with my licence, has exchanged two messuages of that hide with the burgeses of Cirencester, for the conveniency of the priests: I have also granted a water-course, and the wood called Acley, with the forest, and all its lands; and I retain to myself nothing out of the wood besides my hunting, and the abbat may not plow up any part of it.

We moreover ordain, concerning the estates belonging to Reimbald, that whatsoever part the bishop of Salisbury hath, shall remain to him during his life, but after his death it shall return to the proper use and demesne of the canons regular:

regular : We ordain the like concerning the lands held by William Fitz Warin the sheriff; and the like of the lands held by Nicholas, nephew of the bishop of Winton; and the like concerning the lands which the secular canons held by their prebends: We do also grant to the said church, throughout all their possessions, soc and sac, toll, theam, infang-theof, and all other liberties, immunities, customs and privileges, in as free manner as the said church held the same in the reign of king Edward the confessor, or in the reign of my father or brother, or in my time; and as free as any other eleemosynary lands in the kingdom are held; therefore I approve, and by my royal authority do corroborate this my grant and concession, and by the power given to me by God, I decree, that the said church shall for ever enjoy the same; and I declare that I reserve those lands so given in alms, in my own hand, and under my protection, as if those alms-lands had been my own proper gift.

Witnesses, William, archbishop of Canterbury; Turstan, archbishop of York; Roger, bishop of Salisbury; Henry, bishop of Winchester; Alexander, bishop of Lincoln; Jeoffry, bishop of Durham; Nigell, bishop of Ely; Robert, bishop of Hereford; John, bishop of Rochester; Robert, keeper of the seal; Robert de Vere, Miles Gloec. Robert Doiley, Hugh Bigott, Robert de Curcy, and Pagan, the son of John; and Eustace and William his brothers; and William de Albia Britone.

Done at Burne, as I was crossing the seas, in the year of our Lord 1133, and in the 33d year of our reign.

We therefore the said grants, &c. do confirm, &c.

Given under the hand of the king at Berwick upon Tweed, on the first day of July.

King Henry's grants were confirmed by king John, as follows :

The

*The Confirmation of the Grants to the Abbey of Cirencester by
King John.*

JOHN, by the grace of God, king of England, &c. to
Archbishops, &c. greeting: It is becoming our dignity, and
is necessary for our salvation, that we should defend, keep and
preserve those holy and religious places which were founded
by our great grandfather, king Henry the First, and were
confirmed by king Henry the Second, our father; therefore
we give and grant, and by this present charter confirm to God,
and to the holy church of St. Mary of Cirencester, and to
the canons regular serving God in that place, in free and per-
petual alms, for the good of the soul of the aforesaid king
Henry, who was founder thereof, and for the soul of our father
aforementioned, and for the souls of king Richard our brother,
and queen Anne our mother, and of our brethren and all others
departed this life in the true faith, all our manor of Cirencester,
with all its appertencances; with the town of Minchey, which
is a member of the said manor, with the seven hundreds be-
longing to the said manor and farm, with all their appertenan-
cies; to hold of us and our successors, yielding and paying 30*l.*
yearly for all services, at our exchequer, at the feast of St.
Michael: And know ye, that for the good of our soul, and
all others above mentioned, we have given, released, and
quit claimed, in perpetual alms, to the honour of St. Mary,
and to our said canons of Cirencester serving God, forty shil-
lings yearly rent, which the said manor was accustomed to
pay, so that for the future they shall pay only a rent of 30*l.* as
aforesaid; and this we have done, that the canons of our de-
mesnes, who are so named herein, may the more freely,
quietly and safely serve God, in praying for us, for our father,
and the rest abovementioned; wherefore we will, &c. We
will also and command, that they enjoy that manor as fully
and quietly, with all its liberties and free customs, as king
Richard

Richard, our brother, enjoyed the same, when it was in his hands, except pleas of the crown, and our forest of Minchy, which we reserve to ourselves, as the charter of king Richard, our brother, can testify.

Witnesses, Robert, earl of Leicester; William, earl of Pembroke; William de Albeniaco, Garine de Glapum, Peter Estokes, and many others.

This monastery was very richly endowed, as appears by the recited grants and charters; but its revenues were not much increased at any time afterwards. Indeed the *ecclesiastics were envied* for their riches and grandeur by the nobility and gentry; and as early as the seventh year of the reign of Edward the First, the statute of Mortmain was enacted, by which all religious persons were incapacitated from buying or accepting any fees, or freeholds, without licence of the chief lords, upon pain of forfeiture. There were several laws made to prevent this, for (as Frederick the abbat of Canterbury told William the Conqueror) the lands, which were for the maintenance of martial men, were converted to pious uses, and bestowed on holy votaries. By these means the military services, necessary for the defence of the kingdom, were withdrawn; and the chief lords lost their escheats, wardships, and reliefs. To prevent these evils, at the creation of a feigniory, this clause was often inserted, *Quod licitum sit donatori rem donatam dare vel vendere cui voluerit, exceptis viris religiosis et Judeis*. Lord Coke (2 Inst. c. 36) has shewn how many ways the religious had to evade this law, of which

which they complained; and to supply the loss of new benefactions, they procured pensions, exemptions from tithes, and impropriations.

In the reign of king Henry the Fourth, and that of king Henry the Fifth, were two several attempts upon the temporal possessions of the church; which were in great measure set aside by archbishop Arundel, and archbishop Chicheley, tho' in the second year of the last mentioned reign, the parliament, held at Leicester, gave all the alien priories to the king, with their lands and houses, except such as were conventual. In the succeeding reigns, the monks grew more and more disliked by the laity, who had been witnesses to the loose and vicious lives which some of them led, 'till at length the reformation began to take place in the reign of king Henry the Eighth. By an act of parliament in the 27th year of that reign, all monasteries not having 200*l.* a year were dissolved, and all their lands, rents, and houses, with their stocks of cattle, corn, and other effects, given to the king. And in the 31st year of the same reign, all the great abbies, to the number of 645, met with the same fate. The next year, the houses, lands, and goods of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem were seized by the crown; as were 90 colleges, 110 hospitals, and 2370 chantries and free chapels, in the 37th year of that reign, which put a final period to the monastic state in this kingdom.

What very much promoted this catastrophe, was the sending out visitors to all the monasteries in the kingdom, with instructions to enquire concerning their revenues, and the lives and conversation of the monks and nuns. And the visitors found in many places monstrous disorders; the sin of Sodom in several houses; great factions and cruelties in others, and in some they found tools for coining. The report of the visitors contained many abominable things not fit to be mentioned; but it was read in both houses of parliament, which disposed the members to great easiness in the matter. And in that parliament which was summoned in 1539, and which confirmed all resignations of religious houses, already made, or to be made, though twenty abbats sat in person, not one of them protested against it.

In this general wreck fell the abbey of Cirencester, which was surrendered to the commissioners the 29th of December, 1539, 31 H. 8. Its annual revenues had been valued in 1535, at 105*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* ob. according to both the copies of the valuation of religious houses, one by Mr. Burton or Mr. Speed, taken from the original by the commissioners; the other by Sir William Dugdale, taken out of the Cotton library, which two accounts seldom agree. But the monasteries were much richer than appeared from the rent-roll of their estates; for it was the practice to let them at their first rates, tho' the value of lands was much enhanced; and instead of raising rents, they exacted great fines from their tenants upon the renewal

newal of leases; so that some houses rated only at 200*l.* a year, were really worth many thousands.

The valued rents of the abbey lands, as they were then let, was 132,607*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* but this was not one tenth of the real value. The king had then in his hands the greatest advantage that ever king of England had. The people were given to understand, that with all this wealth, the kingdom should be strengthened with an army of 40,000 men, the navy put on a more respectable footing, and that, for the future, they should never be charged with subsidies, loans, or common aids. But such was the king's extravagance, that all this melted away in a few years, and the people were disappointed in their expectations.

The following is a List of the Abbats, from Mr. Willis's History of the Mitred Parliamentary Abbies.

1. Serlo, the fourth dean of Salisbury, was made the first abbat after the foundation, *anno* 1117. He died *anno* 1147, and was succeeded by

2. Andrew, who died *anno* 1176, and had for his successor,

3. Adam, prior of Bardney. He died *anno* 1183, and

4. Robert, canon of Cirencester, succeeded; who dying the same year, the convent elected another

5. Robert for their abbat; upon whose death, which happened *anno* 1187,

6. Richard, prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, succeeded. He died *anno* 1213; in which year,

7. Alexander Nequam, *alias* Neccham, was made abbat. Weever says he was buried in St. Alban's abbey, tho', with better authority, other historians mention his interment in the

cloysters of the cathedral church at Worcester, with this rhyming epitaph :

*Ecclypsim patitur sapientia, sol sepelitur,
Qui dum vivebat studii genus omne vigeat.
Solvitur in cineres Neccham. Cui si foret hæres
In terris unus, minus esset flebile funus.*

THUS ENGLISHED,

Wisdom suffers an eclipse. The sun is buried, who being alive, every kind of learning flourished. Neccham is reduced to ashes ! Were there one left in the country to succeed him, his death would be less to be lamented.—All agree that Neccham was a very learned man, an excellent poet, and a great proficient, for his time, in all sorts of literature. See an account of him in Leland, and in Bale *De Scriptoribus*. The year after his death, which happened *anno* 1227, or, as in Willis, 1217,

8. Walter, or, as some records have it, Richard, was elected abbat. He died 1230, whereupon

9. Hugh de Bampton, *alias* Bathon, who is elsewhere called Henry, succeeded. He died *anno* 1238, and was succeeded by

10. Roger de Rodmarton. He died *anno* 1266, and was succeeded by

11. Henry de Munden, to whose election the king consented Oct. 10, 1266. I don't find when he died, but *anno* 1281,

12. Henry de Hamptonel was made abbat. He died Nov. 2, 1307, eleven days after which,

13. Adam Brokenbury was elected abbat ; but his election was vacated 'till the 3d of December, at which time he obtained a confirmation of it. He died *anno* 1319, and was succeeded by

14. Richard de Charleton, on whose resignation, *anno* 1334,

15. William Hereward was admitted abbat. He died Apr. 25, 1352, and was succeeded by

16. Ralph de Eftcote, who dying *anno* 1357, was succeeded by

17. William

17. William de Marteley, or Martelege. He died *anno* 1361, and was succeeded by
18. William de Dinton, who dying *anno* 1363, was succeeded by
19. Nicholas de Ameney, who dying *anno* 1394, was succeeded by
20. John Lekhampton. His successor was
21. William Best, *anno* 1416. He procured to himself and successors, the use of the mitre and pontificals, and dying 1429,
22. William Wotton obtained the benediction, Mar. 5, 1429. On his death, 1440,
23. John Taunton was consecrated abbat the same year, and dying *anno* 1445, had for his successor,
24. William George, who received the benediction April 10, 1445, at Pershore. He died *anno* 1461, whereupon
25. John Solbury, or Sadbury, received the benediction at Alnchurch, Oct. 13, 1461. I find not when he died, but *anno* 1478,
26. Thomas Compton occurs abbat. He died Oct. 11, 1481, and was succeeded by
27. Richard Clyve, elected Oct. 25, and confirmed Nov. 5, 1481. He was succeeded 1488, by
28. Thomas Aston, confirmed abbat, in the bishop of Worcester's chapel in the Strand, London, October 22, 1488. He resigned *anno* 1504, and was succeeded by
29. John Hakeborne, or Haukebourne, who was confirmed abbat December 7, 1504; of whom Anthony a Wood tells us, that in the year 1500, being then prior of St. Mary's college in Oxford, he commenced Bachelor of Divinity, and afterwards Doctor, and dying about the year 1522, was succeeded by
30. John Blake, the last abbat. In the year 1534, he subscribed to the king's supremacy, with Richard Ciceter, prior, Will. Cerney, and other monks of his house, in number sixteen.

One head in the instructions to the visitors of monasteries is now particularly necessary to be taken notice of. They were enjoined to find out how many of the religious would return to a secular life; and were directed, at their discretion, to appoint pensions to the abbats, priors, and some of the most respectable monks, during life.

To the last abbat, and to some of the religious of his house, the commissioners appointed the following pensions. ' To John Blake, late abbat, 25*ol.*
' Richard Woodwall, late prior, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* William Warbot, late cellarer, 8*l.* William Philips, vicar of the parish church of Cirester, *nihil; declaratur in pede.* Thomas Fisher, Thomas Hedde, John Ruffel, John Walle, William More, Richard Bolle, John Straunge, Thomas Logger, Anthony Chilcoke, Henry Hawks, James Plebeien, William Smyth, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* each. Richard Lane, 5*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*—Memorandum, That William Philippes abovenamed, is assigned to the Vicarage & Cure of the Parish of Cirester, with the hole Tithes of Woolle, Lambe, Hey, Oblations, Alterages and all other Profitts bilonging to the same Church: The Tithes of the Domayne-Lands, latelie being in Occupation of the late Abbot and Convent there, only excepted. Yeldinge, therefore, unto the King's Majestie, in Consideration, the same Vicar shall be charged with the finding of three Preists besydes hymself to mynister there, also shall finde Wyne and Wax at his propre Costs and Charges Yerely,

‘ 53s. 4d. And so the said Vicar shall have a reasonable Living and a convenyant Portion of the Profits of the said Church, the Quantitie of the Cure there Duellie considered.’

Robert Southwell.

Edward Carne.

Ric. Gwent.

John London.

Rychard Poulet.

Will. Berners.

In the reservations in the grant of the scite of the abbey, made to Roger Bassinge, esq; by king Henry the Eighth, the king commands that all the edifices within the scite and precincts of the monastery should be pulled down and carried away; and the royal mandate was so punctually obeyed, and the materials so totally removed, that the precise spot where the abbey church stood was quickly forgotton. Mr. Willis, who was a curious searcher after such things, conjectures, that the abbey stood on the north side of the parish church. And the parish church, says he, was no doubt set within part of the abbey cemetery. We think Mr. Willis is perfectly right in the latter assertion, tho’ he has not assigned a reason. But we will give ours, and that is, that the parish church had no cemetery belonging to it, ’till the last century. All that now remains of the abbey buildings, consists only of two antient gate-ways, the *Almery-gate* and the *Spital-gate*, and one very large barn. How these came to escape is very uncertain.

Soon after this revolution in church-affairs, tho’ it appeared to be so much to the wishes of all ranks of the

the laity, and of some of the clergy, the monks were almost as much pitied as they were hated before. Ten thousands of the religious were sent to seek their fortunes, with a gown and forty shillings a man. But there were other discontents. The nobility and gentry, who had provided for their younger children and friends, by putting them in monasteries, were sensible of their loss. And the people who had been fed at the abbats tables, as they travelled over the country, and found the abbies to be receptacles for strangers, saw what they were to lose.

To remove this prevalent discontent, lord chancellor Cromwell advised the king to sell the abbey lands to the nobility and gentry, at very easy rates, and to oblige them to keep up the wonted hospitality. This, it was imagined, would be grateful to them, and in case of disturbance engage them to assist the crown in the maintenance of the changes that had been made, with whose interest their own would be thus interwoven. And the common people, whose grudges lay chiefly in their stomachs, would be easily pacified, by hospitality. Cromwell's advice was followed, which accounts for the small and inadequate considerations paid to the crown for abbey lands. Hospitality was kept up for a time, proportionate to the generosity of the purchasers, their descendants and successors.

By letters patent dated the 11th day of May, 32 H. 8. the king granted to Roger Bassinge, esq; the scite of the late dissolved monastery of Cirencester, with all edifices, buildings, dove-houses, courts, yards, orchards,

orchards, gardens, waters, ponds, mills, lands and grounds, within the scite and precincts of the same monastery; and all the grange of Spyrgate, *alias* Spittle-grange, with the appertenancies; and all the grange called the Almery-grange, with the appertenancies; and twenty-one acres of meadow, lying in meadows called the Almery-close, St. John's mead, Pulham's barn, Dolemead, Glyff, and Kingmead: Except all timber-trees and woods growing upon the premises, and all such edifices within the scite and precinct of the said monastery which the king had commanded to be pulled down, and to be carried away. Rent 3*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* ob.

One hundred and fifty-two messuages lying in the town of Cirencester, and which formerly belonged to the abbey, were granted to John Pollard and William Birt, 36 H. 8. And St. Mary's mill, [*now taken down, but which stood at the first bridge from the church*] and Barton-mill, formerly belonging to the abbey, were granted to James Woodford and Thomas Woodford, 2 Eliz.

These messuages are now the property of various proprietors, and are held according to the custom of the manor of Cirencester, by copy of the court-roll, subject to very small annual chief-rents, (none we believe more than 5*s.*) and descend like freeholds to the heir at law. Alienations are made by surrender into the hands of the steward of the manor at a court-halimote, in the presence of two benchers or tenants at least, and by the admittance of the purchaser. In

P

this

this court fines are levied, and recoveries suffered, and the tenure is esteemed by the inhabitants to be of equal value with freehold. But it is a base holding, by suit and service, and altogether incompatible with the condition of a free people.

The scite of the abbey was granted Aug. 19, 1 E. 6. to Thomas lord Seymour, with lands in fifteen counties, to be held *in capite* by the service of one knight's fee, paying 1*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* But at that nobleman's attainder, all reverted to the crown. *Fuller's History of Abbies.* And

In the 6th year of E. 6. by letters patent dated the 21st of September, the king demised the scite of the monastery of Cirencester, two granges, &c. to Sir Anthony Kingston, knight, then his servant, at the rent of 19*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* ob.

And by letters patent dated the 6th of January, 7 Eliz. the queen, for the consideration of 590*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* gave and granted to Richard Master, esq; the reversion of the scite of the said monastery, &c. with the granges and lands thereto belonging, except all the bells, and all the lead upon the premises; and all advowsons of the rectories, vicarages and churches.

From the before-mentioned Richard Master, the abbey-estate has descended in a direct line down to Thomas Master, esq; * the present proprietor, who has

* Richard Master of Cirencester, ancestor to the present possessor, was descended from the family of Master in Kent.

has a handsome house, built in 1776, with good gardens, and spacious lawns, on the scite of the abbey, and several large estates in the neighbouring villages, and other parts of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, &c.

It has been observed, that on the alienation of abbey-lands by the crown, the purchasers were enjoined to keep up hospitality; and we have reason to believe that it was continued here as long as any where.

He was physician to queen Elizabeth, and married Elizabeth daughter of ——— Tunnely of Lincolnshire.

George Master, esq; son of Richard, married Bridget, daughter and heiress of John Cornwall, of Marlborough in Wiltshire.

Sir William Master, son of George, married Alice daughter of Edward Estcourt, of Salisbury, esq. He was high sheriff of Gloucestershire 3 Car. 1, 1627, and was a person of great worth and loyalty. He served in parliament for the borough of Cirencester, and lies buried in the church of that place. King Charles I. passed one night at Sir William Masters's at Cirencester, in his march from Bristol to Oxford in August 1643, and another in 1644, in his return from Bath.

Thomas Master, esq; son of sir William, married Elizabeth sister of sir Thomas Dyke, of Suffex. On the 27th of Aug. 1702, Queen Anne lay at his house, as it is in the parish register. He died 1680, and lies buried near his father in Cirencester church. He also served in parliament for that borough.

Thomas Master, son of Thomas, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Driver, of Aston, and has likewise served in parliament for the said borough.

where. Even in the present century, here was a kind of open house-keeping at Christmas for twelve days together. And we have heard from those who have been present, and partakers of the entertainment, that amongst plenty of good old-fashion viands, a large quantity of plumb-porridge was a very favorite dish. And what greatly enhanced the value of the treat, the master and mistress of the entertainment thought it no degradation to join in the song, and the dance,

Thomas Master, son of the last Thomas, married Joan, daughter and heiress of Jasper Chapman, of Stratton, esq; who before his death gave this estate to his son,

Thomas Master, esq; who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of sir Thomas Cann, bar^t. and dying the latter end of May, 1749, left issue by the said Elizabeth, two sons, Thomas and Richard, and one daughter Elizabeth.

Thomas Master, son of the last mentioned Thomas and Elizabeth, the present proprietor of the abbey-estate, served in two successive parliaments for the county of Gloucester; but preferring a private life, declined the honor which the county would have conferred upon him a third time. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James-Lenox Dutton, of Sherbourn in the same county, esq; the issue of which marriage were, 1. Thomas, who commanded a troop of British light dragoons in the Low-countries in the present war, and having signalized himself in several actions with the French, was promoted to a majority. His health being much impaired by the severity of winter-campaigns, he returned home to reinstate it, but died in 1797. 2. Jane, 3. Mary-Anne, who are both living. His arms are, *Gules, a lion rampant gardant, his tail double, Or, holding in his paw a rose argent.*—See several memorials for this family in the account of St. Mary's chapel.

and

and, with the better sort of the company, to partake in the festivity of the meeting. And the reader will credit us, when we assert, that they were beloved and adored. There was nothing possible to their neighbours in which they would not have been served. These were the good old manners of the age, from which we have too far refined. In those days London and Bath were less accessible from this part of the country, and less frequented. Brighton, Weymouth, &c. as places of dissipation, were unknown, and we could wish * * * * but *what avails?*

When pleasure lures, and votaries pursue,
Pity we may,—but what can Pity do?
Like death, she comes when all the mischief's past;
Of all our friends, the tardiest and the last.

Antient Crosses.

THE antient crosses have a claim to our notice. There were vestiges of at least six of them, within the recollection of many persons now living, but not one entire.

The principal of them was called the HIGH CROSS. It stood upon a base of about 10 feet square, with four steps on each side, gradually diminishing from the lowest to the uppermost. From the middle of the base rose an octangular column or pillar, supporting a capital, much defaced and broken before our time;
but

but it appeared to have been ornamented with carvings, of which the subject could not be distinguished. We suppose it, however, to have been a very curious piece of workmanship, as more than ordinary care had been taken to preserve what remained of it. It was encompassed with an iron collar, from the sides of which four bars proceeded to the upper steps, and thus it was supported upon the column or pillar of the cross. Over this capital the cross was fixed, of which we believe no person living had any remembrance. In a deed dated 1413, this was called *Nova Crux*, [the new cross] so that there were others at that time more antient than this. The whole being in a very mutilated state, and occupying a large space in the opening nearly opposite to the Ram inn, it was taken down about fourteen or fifteen years ago.

A second stood in the open part of Dyer-street, where the pig-market is, and was thence called the pig-cross. Instead of a cross, we remember a sundial fixed on the pillar. The cross had been destroyed, and the whole was taken down, before the removal of the High Cross.

A third stood in the church-yard, but was not entire within memory. The relics were displaced before the two already mentioned.

A fourth stood near the crossing of Castle-street with Sheep-street and the lane leading to the free-school. We remember no more of it than the round pedestal on which it stood, which is now removed.

A fifth

A fifth stood near the extremity of the borough, at the first stream of water at the end of Dyer-street. The round pedestal of it remains there still.

A sixth was erected at the crossing of Leause-lane with Cricklade-street, where the round pedestal of it is still to be seen.

Perhaps it will afford but little information to many of our readers, yet it is pertinent to our subject, to observe, that our ancestors erected crosses in the most frequented parts of towns and villages, and at the crossing and junction of great roads, to put persons in mind of Christ's crucifixion, and to excite their devotion. At length, thro' the extreme ignorance of the people, and misguidance of their instructors, crosses, images, and gross representations of the deity, became real objects of worship. This gave great offence to many worthy persons, and after the reformation, they were some of the points very warmly agitated in religious controversy between protestants and catholics; but still most of those things remained entire where they had been fixt, 'till the great civil war, in the reign of king Charles the First. The catholics in general adhered to the king; but were moreover obnoxious on account of religion to the parliament's party, who were strict and rigid protestants. The latter prevailing, demolished most of the crosses and images wherever they found them, which accounts for nothing remaining of the former, except the pedestals and a few of the pillars on which the crosses stood.

C H A P.

 C H A P IV.

Of the antient Hundred of Cirencester.

THIS place very antiently gave denomination to a hundred, which at different times was more or less extensive. Soon after the conquest, as we find in *Domesday-book*, it included the following places, viz. *Achelie*, *Benwedene*, *Circestre*, *Duntesborne*, *Hunlafesed*, *Nortcote*, *Penneberie*, *Prestetune*, *Stratone*, *Sudintone*, *Torentune*, and *Tursberie*, which are all villages in the neighbourhood of the town. But the hundred was considerably altered before the ninth year of the reign of king Edward the First, when the sheriff of the county returned, that in the hundred of Cirencester are the underwritten vills, viz. *Baudinton*, *Cirencester*, *Cotes*, *Daglinworth*, *Down Ampney*, *Dryfeild*, *Duntesburne*, *Hampton Moysey*, *Preston*, *Sodington*, *South Cerney*, and *Upampney*.

By comparing these two accounts it will be observed that *Cotes* is a new name, and stands, in the sheriff's return, in the room of *Hunlafesed*, *Torentune*, and *Tursberie*, as set down in *Domesday*. *Achelie*, *Nortcote*, and *Penneberie*, are not mentioned by the sheriff, because at that time they were members of, and included in, *Cirencester*, *Preston*, and *Duntesbourne*.

Daglingworth

Daglingworth also at that time seems to include *Stratone*, and hence it may be concluded, that they were both reputed to be one vill, sometimes passing by one name, and sometimes by the other, 'till they were afterwards divided into two parishes. 'Tis also observable, that the *Amneys*, *Dryfeild*, and *Hampton Meysey*, which in Domestday-book are placed in Gerfdon hundred, are returned by the sheriff as belonging to that of Cirencester.

Afterwards another very material alteration took place in this hundred. When the townsmen of Cirencester suppressed the rebellion against king Henry the Fourth, as already related under the head of military affairs, they petitioned the king to be incorporated; whereupon the king directed his writ to the escheater, to inquire what damage others might sustain in consequence. And the escheater returned the inquisition, taken at Gloucester, 4 H. 4. into the court of Chancery, from which the following particulars are extracted. ' The jurors say, that the town of Cirencester and the town of Mynety, with the appertenanties, make and are the manor of Cirencester, and were so in the time of king Richard the First. ' That the church of St. Mary of Cirencester is of the foundation of king Henry the First, and within his patronage. That king Richard the First gave to God and the church of St. Mary of Cirencester his whole manor of Cirencester, with all and singular the appertenanties, and with the town of Mynetie, which is a member of the said manor, and with the

‘ seven hundreds to the same manor, and to his farm
 ‘ belonging, and with all other the appertenancies, to
 ‘ be holden of the said king and his successors for
 ‘ ever, at the rent of 30*l.* a year, with Soca, Saca,
 ‘ Thol, Them, Infangtheof, and Outfangtheof, Ham-
 ‘ foca, and Girthbriche, Blodewite, Murder, Fore-
 ‘ stall, Flemsfleet, Ordeal, and Orest *, within time
 ‘ and without, and in all places and with all causes
 ‘ which may be. And that the rent of affize of the
 ‘ said

* These terms are by antient writers thus explained :

Soc, That is, the suing of men in their own court, according to the custom of the kingdom.

SAC is the power of impleading and punishing transgressors in their court, because *sake* in *English* signifies *enchefon* in *French*, (*which is occasion, cause, or reason,*) and it is said for *siche sake* (*that is for such sake or reason*) being the same as *quele enchefon*, and *sake* is said for *forfeit*.

TOL imports, that you, and all your men, throughout all your homage lands, be exempt in all markets from toll, for things bought or sold.

THEAM, This is, that you have all the generation of your villains, with their services and chattles, wheresoever they shall be found in *England*: excepting if any one born in servitude, shall continue for a year and a day undisturbed in any privileged town, so that he be received into their company, or gild, and as one of them, by the same he shall be exempted from villainage.

INFANGETHEF is, that thieves or robbers, taken in your lordship, or fee, and convicted of their theft, be adjudg'd in your court.

OUT-

‘ said manor of Cirencester is 143*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* yearly,
 ‘ payable to the abbat *. And that the said seven
 ‘ hundreds

OUTFANGETHEF is, that thieves or robbers, which belong to your land, or fee, if taken with a robbery out of your land or fee, be brought back to your court, and there try’d.

HAMSOKENE, That is, that you be exempt from amerciaments for entering houses violently and without leave, against the peace of our lord the king, and that you hold pleas of this sort of transgression committed on your land, in your court.

GRYTHEBRICHE, That is, the breach of the king’s peace, for *gryth* in *English*, is *pax* in *Latin*.

BLODWYTE, That is, that you be exempt from amerciament for blood spilt, and that you hold pleas thereupon in your court, and that you have the amerciament arising from thence; because *wyte* in *English*, is the same as *injuria* in *Latin*.

FLEMENESFRITH is, that you have the chattles or amerciaments of a fugitive.

PORSTALL is, that you be exempt from amerciaments for chattles seized, either within or without your lands, and that you have and hold pleas concerning such cases so arrested within your lands, in your court, and the amerciaments arising from the same.

SCHOT is, that you be exempt from a certain custom, as of the common toll impos’d by the sheriff or his bailiffs.

HORNGELDE and LESTAGE, That is, exempt from a duty exacted at fairs and markets.

STALLAGE is exempt from a duty exacted for standings taken or assign’d in fairs and markets.

BURGERICHE is discharg’d from any passing thro’ cities or boroughs, against the peace.

* Rents of assize were certain rents paid by freeholders and antient copyholders, which had their origin in this manner.

‘ hundreds are but as one hundred, and time out of
 ‘ man’s memory have been used as one hundred be-
 ‘ fore the making the aforesaid deed, and belonging
 ‘ to the said manor of Cirencester, and are holden
 ‘ at the town of Cirencester, from three weeks to three

On the ruins of the Roman empire, all Europe soon fell into slavery. The large proprietors of lands generally built castles on their own estates, and became petty tyrants over their tenants and dependants. The inhabitants of towns were chiefly tradesmen and mechanics, of servile condition; but by industry, became at length enabled to purchase certain privileges; such as, that they might dispose of their daughters in marriage without the consent of their lord; that they might leave their effects to whom they pleased by will; and that, at their decease without will, their own children should succeed to them, and not their lord. These privileges were purchased of the great lords, who had various other methods of extorting money. Tradesmen and mechanics were men of low condition, who travelled thro’ the country with their goods, like our hawkers and pedlars; and they were obliged to pay a small tax for passing thro’ certain manors, and over certain bridges; and for erecting a booth or stall in a fair. These impositions were respectively called *passage*, *pontage*, *lastage*, and *stallage*. Sometimes the king or great lord, who claimed these taxes, would grant an exemption from them to particular persons, for certain annual payments; ’till at length, all those which were paid by the burghesses of a whole town being estimated together, were let to farm, sometimes to the sheriff of the county, and sometimes to other persons or incorporate bodies. And as the payment became annual and certain, they were called *Rents of Assize*, or fixt rents, in opposition to *Redditus Mobilis*.

‘ weeks

‘ weeks, at a certain house called the Tolsede *,
 ‘ situate in the middle of the said town. That the
 ‘ manor of Cirencester is the antient demean of the
 ‘ crown, and that to the said manor belong two free
 ‘ tenants, William Erchbald and the holder of the
 ‘ court, and that all other tenants to the said manor,
 ‘ in the aforefaid town of Cirencester and Mynetie
 ‘ belonging, hold all their lands and tenements ac-
 ‘ cording to the custom of the manor of Cirencester.’

In consequence of this return, and the king being much disposed to reward the townsmen, in their own way, for their loyalty, and signal services, he caused the town to be erected into a corporation, in the fourth year of his reign, and made it a separate hundred, with two chief constables, whereby it became a distinct jurisdiction, of which hereafter. Before this, the entire antient hundred was the property of the abbat, who was probably displeased at its being thus dismembered. And tho’ he could not withstand the king’s pleasure, had sufficient interest to procure that the abbey and its precincts should go with the before-mentioned villages, and with them be considered as a distinct hundred.

And because the *Torn*, or court, for the new jurisdiction or town-hundred, was held within the town, and that for the abbey and villages in some part *Out*

* The Tolsede is now converted into a dwelling-house and grocer’s shop, in the Butter-row, now in the occupation of Mr. John Garland.

of the town, the latter was stiled the *Out Torn and Minety*, for the village of Minety was a member, tho' lying at a considerable distance, and severed from it by the interference of another jurisdiction; and this we conceive to be the reason of its making a part of the name of the hundred, called from thence *Th' Out Torn and Minety*, but since corrupted into the unmeaning appellation of *Crowthorne and Minety*, as it is now written in processses and precepts. Thus the abbey, and all its precincts and offices became distinct from the borough, and have continued so ever since.

It appears by the just recited escheater's inquisition, that the antient hundred court was held from three weeks to three weeks;—and it has been so held ever since, for trying causes of debt not exceeding Forty Shillings, down to the year 1792. But in that year, at the instance of the late earl Bathurst, lord of the Seven hundreds, this antient court was abolished, and another erected in its stead, by authority of parliament, with other powers, of which a full account is given in the Second Part, which treats of the town in its present state. And to that part also the reader is referred, for the descent of the manor and hundreds, which are so intimately blended in the records, as not to be treated of distinctly without much repetition.

Thus have we taken a survey of the antiquities of the town. We now proceed to make our observations on the more modern and present state of it.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

T H E
HISTORY of CIRENCESTER.

P A R T II.
The MODERN STATE.

C H A P. I.

Salubrity, Air, Water, &c.

THE bearings and distances of the town from London, and other places, are laid down in the First Part; from which, by this time, the reader may have formed some idea of the antient extent and importance of it. It now remains to say something of its modern and present state; and we shall close our account with some particulars of the parish in general: Mean while, it may be observed, that the parish consists of a due proportion of arable, meadow and pasture, with a large

large tract of woodland. In several places it joins to the north part of Wiltshire, which, with Gloucestershire, is so deservedly esteemed for its fine pasturage, and excellent cheese. The parish is about four miles and a half long, and two and a half broad; and the town, of which we are first to speak, is seated towards the south-eastern limit of it.

The air is pure and salubrious, and not so thin and cold as in more exposed situations; for on a near approach to the town, there is a gradual descent every way, except from the southward; yet it is not a flat, low situation, where the waters stagnate, and where putrid effluvia floating in the air produce agues and other disorders, which carry off the inhabitants at premature age.

The water is sweet and pleasant, rising out of a fine gravel, from about fifteen to twenty feet below the surface, and almost every house has a pump. So great a plenty of this necessary element conduces much to cleanliness, and is in some degree a security against the ravages of fire, from which no town has more providentially escaped.

To the healthiness of the place, if any should object, the present medical inhabitants may witness; but mean while, take the testimony of an honest North Briton, who settled here some years ago in the character of a physician; and after continuing here, and traversing the neighbourhood, for a time sufficient, as he thought, to estimate future success, with an emphatical execration, pronounced it impossible to get
a main-

a maintenance by his profession, and so quitted the place. And we remember four other physicians, all men of reputation in their time, who made the experiment after him. One of them died here, but the other three, like the honest Scot, very prudently abandoned the place that would not afford them food and raiment.

Besides the advantages of fine healthy air and excellent water, the opportunities for walking, so desirable as well for health as pleasure, are scarcely to be equalled. To say nothing of the fields about the town, which are very pleasant, earl Bathurst's park and fine plantations are not above a quarter of a mile distant. But we must not be understood to induce a public and unlimited use of these walks and pleasure-grounds. We only mean to represent his lordship's goodness and condescension in permitting creditable persons, whether of the town or otherwise, to walk there at stated times every day. And here we cannot avoid expressing our indignation at the wanton, licentious, and outrageous behaviour of some who have been admitted to this favour, in scrawling upon the walls and breaking the windows of the buildings and resting places in this delightful place.

As these are celebrated objects, particularly the park and woods, which people of fashion and curiosity who come to the town seldom fail to visit, we shall subjoin a short account of them.

The Seat of Earl Bathurst.

WHERE the present mansion-house stands, was a large one formerly built by lord Danby, about two centuries ago, in the improved stile of that age, which, together with a small estate, was purchased in the year 1695, by Sir Peter Bathurst, great grandfather to the present earl. In addition to this, Allen first lord Bathurst, soon after the death of his father Sir Peter, purchased a very large estate, contiguous to his own, of Sir Robert Atkyns, and taking down the old house, of which we have been speaking, built the present mansion upon the site of it.

The east front is of free stone. It is of considerable extent, and looks towards the west end of the town, at the small distance of about a hundred yards; but the view from thence is intercepted by a high wall lined with trees and evergreens. The approach is by a flight of steps from the side of a gravel walk extending at a proper distance for the whole length of the house, which has a lawn before it. The west front next the park is stuccoed. It has been considerably lengthened and improved since the first building, by the addition of two wings and a portico. Views of both fronts are exhibited in the annexed plate, for which we are obliged to the late earl Bathurst. But this seat is more particularly distinguished by its parks, woods, and extensive plantations, upwards of
four

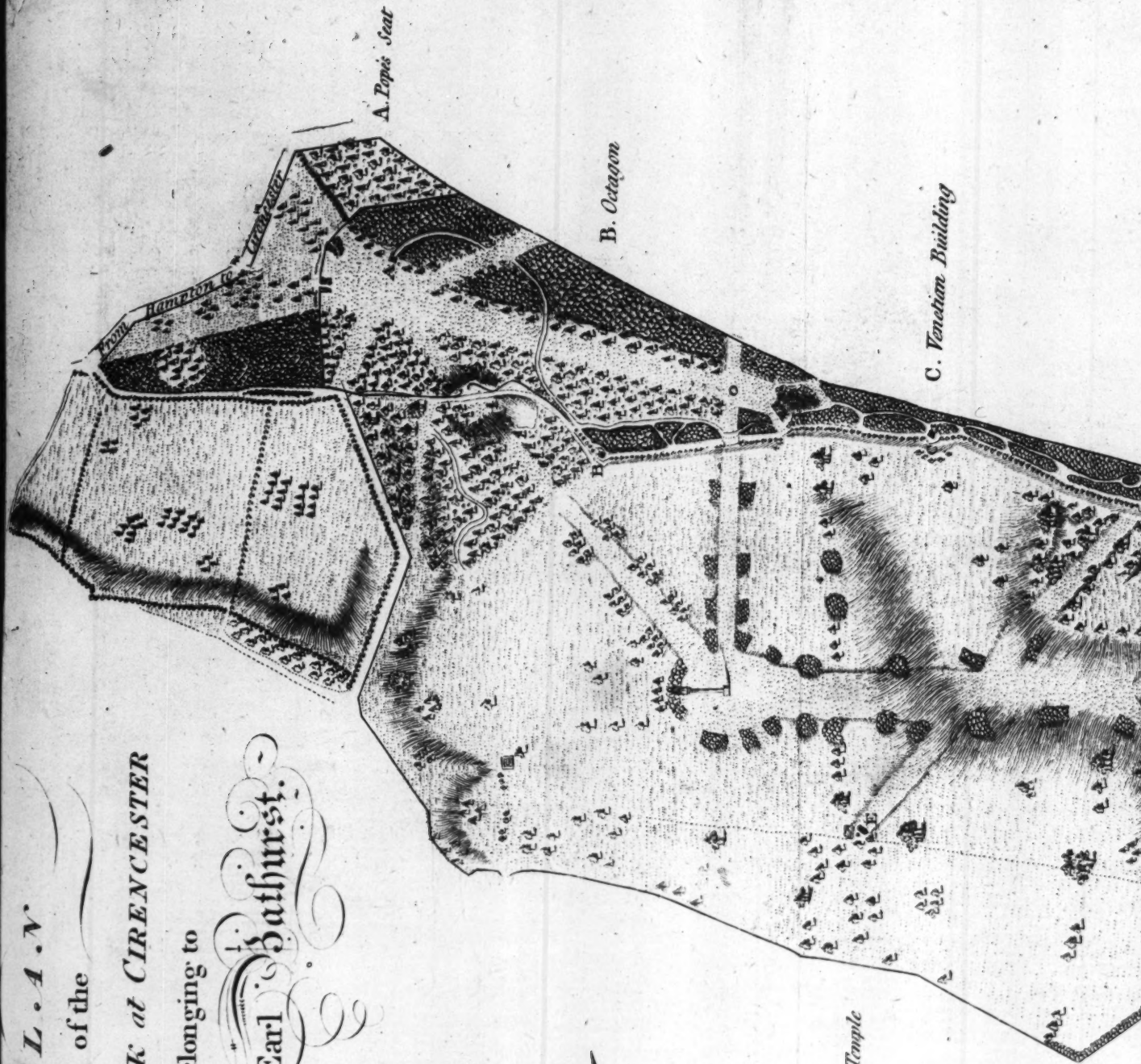
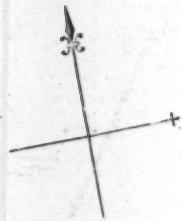
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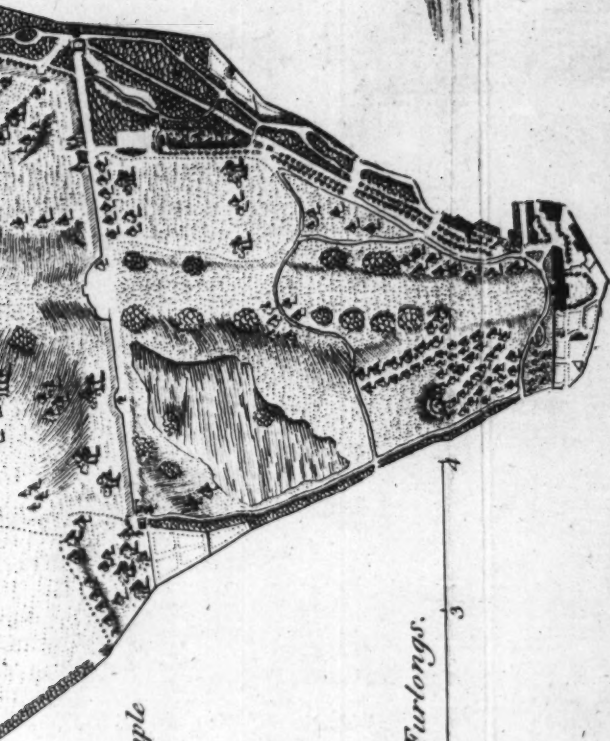
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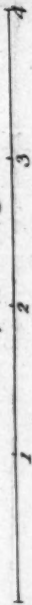
Henry Earl Bathurst.



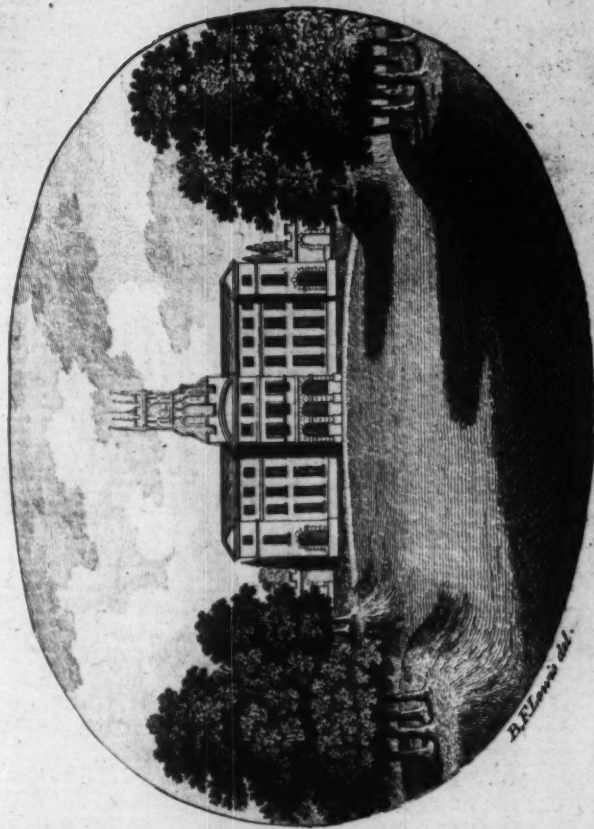
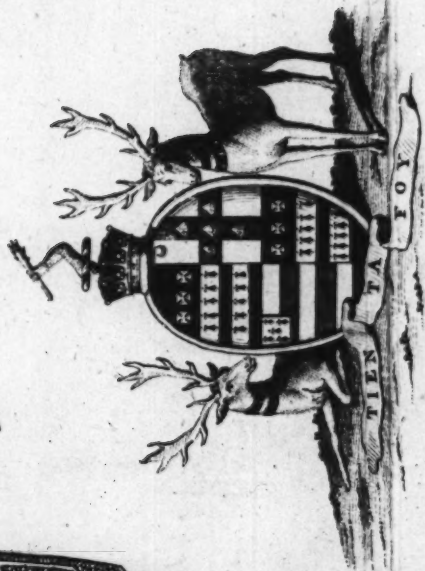


F. Horse Temple

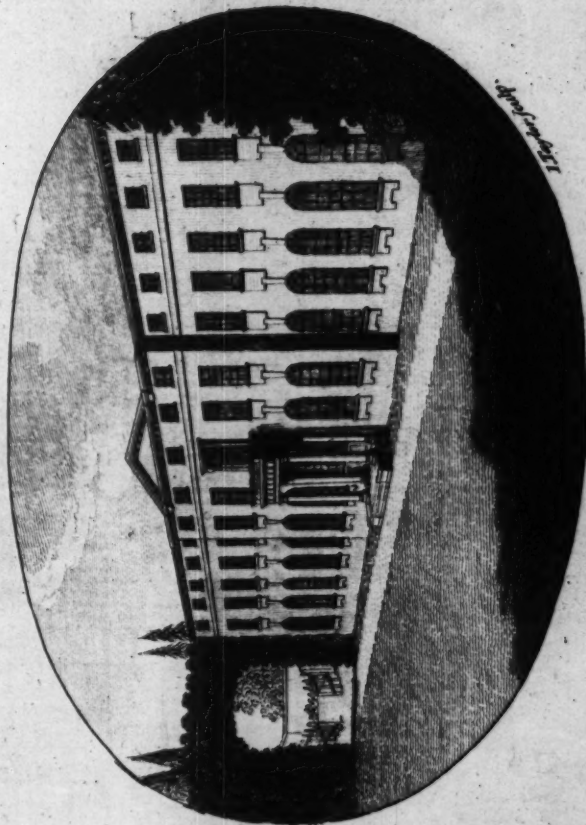
Scale of Furlongs.



D. Hengon



A. Evans del.



A. Evans del.

Views of the House at Cirencester.



four miles in length, from the mansion-house. In these, Allen lord Bathurst, pretty early in life, and in his first essays, discovered a fine taste, and on that account his intimate friend Mr. Pope has justly celebrated him in his unrivalled verse.

The entrance to the house and park from the town is at a lodge on the north side, by a spacious gravel walk, between rows of stately elms. At a small distance from this entrance, to the left, is an oblique prospect of the west front of the mansion, with a fine sweep of lawn before it, and a grove of lofty trees on either side. Turning to the right from the same spot, the walk divides; one branch leading to the terrace, the other running by the side of it, in a serpentine direction above a mile in length, finely arched over and shaded by a thick plantation of firs, beech, and other woods, through which it passes. At suitable distances it communicates with the terrace, where are several buildings and benches, for the convenience of shelter and rest. About the mid-way in length, the serpentine walk is interrupted at a building called the *Hexagon*, to which you ascend by a flight of half a dozen steps. It faces a vista, which crosses the park at right angles with the terrace, and terminates with another little structure called the *Horfe-temple*. At the end of the serpentine walk is a small building called *Pope's Seat*, perhaps because that great genius frequently retired thither when he visited his noble friend at Cirencester. There is a lawn before it, where eight vistas concentre, and direct to prospects of neighbour-

ing churches, and other agreeable objects. One of those objects is a fine lofty column in the midst of the deer-park, supporting a colossal statue of queen Anne. This column is near a mile distant from the house, about three hundred yards behind which stands the beautiful tower of the parish church of Cirencester, so directly in the centre of it, with their fronts parallel to each other, that an observer at the pillar might be easily induced to believe the tower to be a part of his lordship's house, were it not of a different colour.

The terrace is sheltered on the north by flowering shrubs and ever-greens, completely covering for their height the thick plantation, thro' whose shady arcades and bowers the serpentine walk meanders. It is separated from the Deer-park, to the southward, by a low cut hedge and fosse, over which it commands a distant prospect of the north of Wiltshire; and it terminates at a handsome building called the *Octagon*, about a mile from the mansion-house.

About the middle of the terrace is a little edifice called the *Venetian-house*, and not far from it, a pair of gates, for a communication between the Deer and Lodge-parks. At these gates there is a prospect of a large piece of water, a little to the right of the house, which looks like part of a considerable river; but 'tis only a pleasing deception, for nature, as to that element, hath dealt her favours to this place with so sparing a hand, that there is not perhaps a perennial spring to be found within it. This agreeable deception is produced by planting clumps of trees to conceal

ceal the extremities of the lake, and it is one of the numberless instances of that judgment and taste every where to be seen in these plantations, all laid out and perfected nearly as we now see them, in the life-time of the late Allen earl Bathurst. The eye is nowhere offended with the appearance of naked walls, nor can it judge of the extent of the park, as the country on one side is taken into view over fosses and boundaries, very artfully concealed.

Mr. Pope had his eye upon this seat, when he paid the noble proprietor that fine compliment in the following stanza :

“ Who then shall grace, or who improve the soil?

“ Who plants like Bathurst, and who builds like Boyle?”

Windfor, Richmond, and Stow, have been celebrated by their respective bards; and his lordship's seat is the subject of a short descriptive poem, by the late Mr. Edward Stephens *, not destitute of sentiment and merit. Annexed, are two views of the *mansion-house, and a plan of the home-park.*

* In a voluminous work publishing in numbers, there is also a prose description of this seat, remarkable for its inaccuracies in *terms* as well as *facts*.

Oakley Woods, and Alfred's Hall.

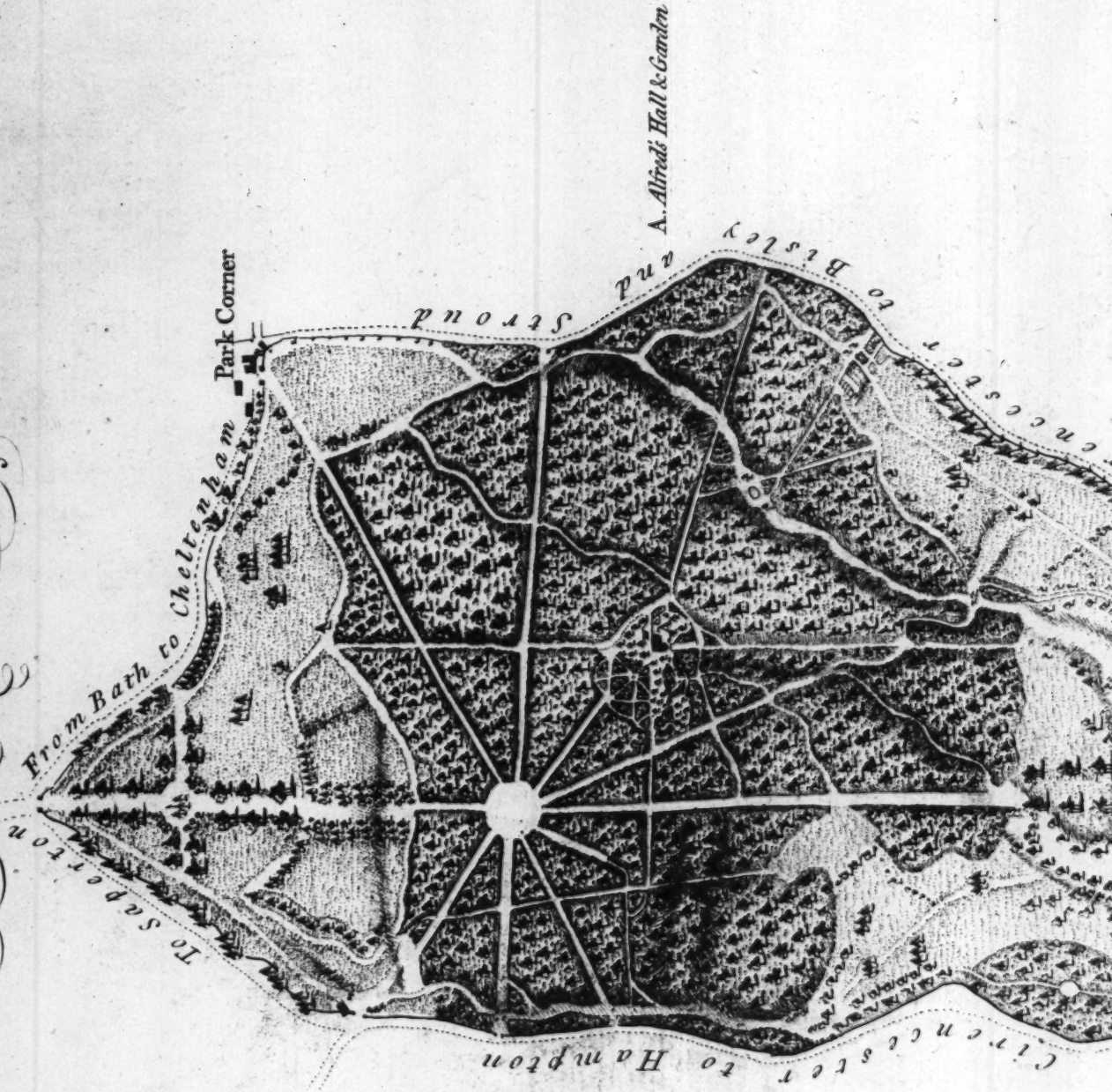
ADJOINING to the deer-park westward, is the Lodge-park, to which the entrance is at a large pair of gates near the Round Tower; and about a mile further westward are Oakley Woods. These woods merit our particular notice. Near the middle of them, on a rising ground, is the point from which, like so many radii, ten cuts or ridings issue. The largest of them is about fifty yards wide, and the view from it is terminated by the lofty tower of Cirencester church, at the distance of three or four miles. Others of them are directed to various distant objects, and produce a very agreeable effect.

Concealed as it were in the wood, stands Alfred's hall, a building that has the appearance of great antiquity, with a bowling-green, and many beautiful lawns and agreeable walks about it.

In the summer season something more than twenty years ago, a few of the townsmen who were lovers of music, and of themselves made a respectable little band, met on this delightful spot, by the permission of Allen lord Bathurst, to play a few pieces of music for their own entertainment. Their refreshments were spread beneath the delightful shade which this little paradise affords. And it was a day of so much pleasure and enjoyment, that they resolved to repeat
their

PLAN of OAKLEY GRE. AT PARK belonging to

Henry Earl Bathurst.

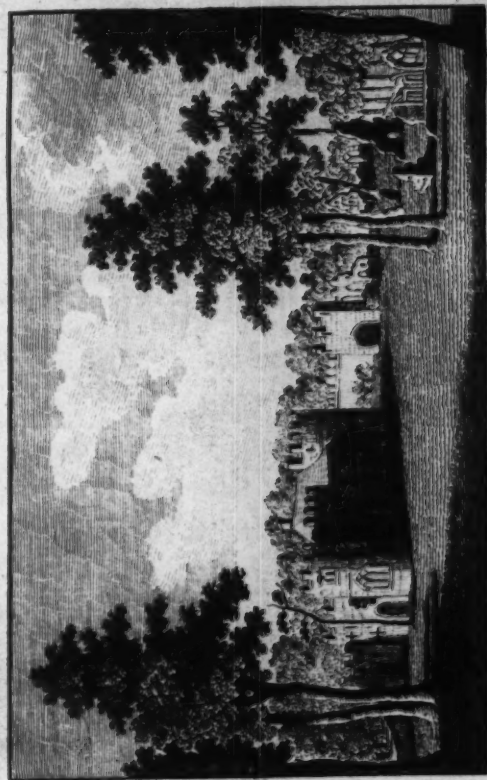
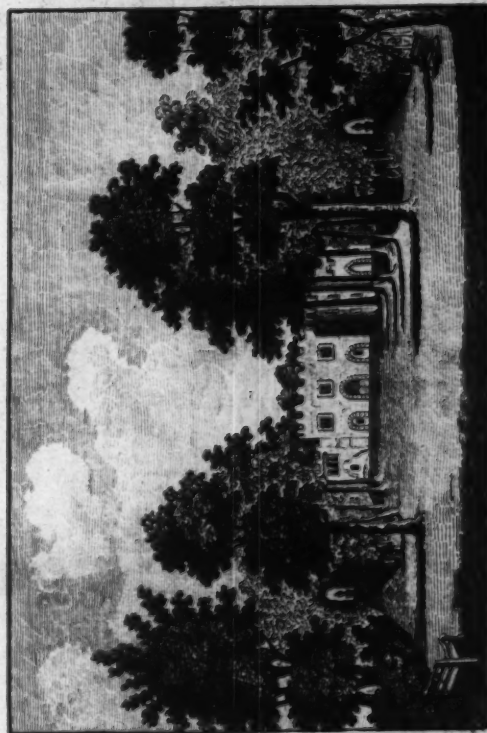
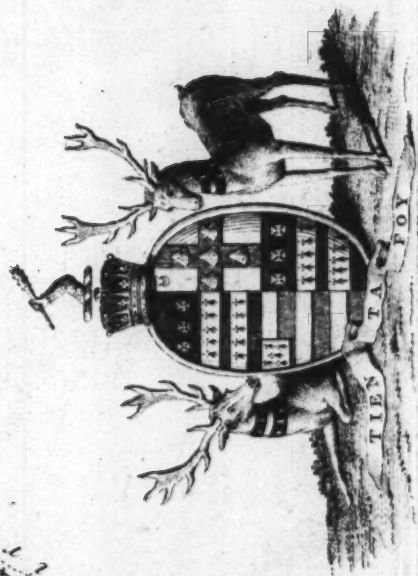


A. Alford's Hall & Garden



The Round Tower

Scale of Furlongs.



J. J. Lewis del.

J. J. Lewis del.

Views of Alfreds Hall.



their visit every year. In two or three years this little meeting began to be known and talked of by the name of the WOODHOUSE CONCERT, tho' as yet it continued to be select and private; but it was a *Fete* too delicious to continue so. Strangers requested to have tickets of admittance, and they could not be refused. It was indeed a compliment to the performers; and besides, in pleasures of this sort, the individual's share is augmented by encreasing the number of partakers. And thus in five or six years the Woodhouse Concert was a high day with the nobility and gentry in this part of the country. A cold collation was provided, and every thing conducted with great propriety. All was harmony, every body pleased, and each succeeding year out-rivalled the former. The band was gradually improved, and at length augmented with some of the best performers from Bath and Oxford, and by such assistance, it was expected to increase the celebrity of the meeting, and to ensure its duration: But the very means by which the managers expected to promote it, had the contrary effect. The contributions of the company were very considerable, but unequal to the demands and excesses of those hired performers. Therefore, equally unwilling to be imposed on, as to sit down at a loss, the conductors of this most agreeable entertainment suffered it to drop abruptly about a dozen years ago.

Upon this occasion, we acknowledge ourselves to be of Dryden's opinion, who thought the merits of

fiddlers

fidlers and fingers much over-rated, as appears by the following lines :

Now look into the music-master's gains,
Where noble youth at vast expence are taught,
But eloquence not valued at a groat.

Were Dryden now living, with how much more reason might he complain, when such vast sums of money, surpassing any thing of the kind in his days, are bestowed on musical performers, many of them foreigners too, and at a time when the exigencies of the state are provided for with difficulty. We ourselves have been highly entertained with music, but few, we think, have been benefited by it; perhaps, in a moral sense, none at all. We have bestowed a few thoughts on the subject, and the result in short, is this; that music fascinates the ear, and exercises an imperious sway over the passions. It propels and precipitates the will without convincing the judgment. It is of an intoxicating nature, and has no restraining powers: Hence the dangers to which its votaries are ever exposed, when pursued with avidity as it now is; and even its greatest advocates must allow, that it is at least a very heavy tax on their time and finances. But to return :

The concert was performed in Alfred's-hall, on which we shall now make a few observations.

On the inside, over the door opposite to the south entrance, is the following inscription in the Saxon character and language.

Dir

Ðis is þ þrybe þ Ælfræd cýnning 7 gyðrun
cýnning 7 ealler angelcýnner witan. 7 ealreo
ðeod þe on eartenzlum be oþ ealle gecwden
habbaþ 7 mid aþum gefæfestrnod for hi selfe
7 for heora gýngnan. ge for geborene ge for
ungeborene ðe godes miltre wecce oþþe ure ;

Æfestr ymb ure landgemæra up on temere
7 ðonne up on ligan 7 andlang ligan oþ hire
æpylm ðonne on gewiht to bedanforða ðon
up on uran oþ wærlingastret ;

Over the south door is the following Latin translation ;

*FOEDUS quod Ælfredus & Gythrunus reges, omnes
Angli sapientes, & quicumq; Angliam incolebant orienta-
lem, ferierunt; & non solum de seipsis, verum etiam de
natis suis, ac nondum in lucem editis, quotquot misericor-
diæ divinæ aut regiæ velint esse participes jurejurando
sanxerunt.*

*Primo ditionis nostræ fines ad Thamesin evehuntur,
inde ad Leam usq; ad fontem ejus ; tum recta ad Bed-
fordiam, ac deniq; per Usam ad viam Vetelingianam.*

There is a ruin behind this building, with a stone
over the chimney-piece, on which, in antient charac-
ters relieved, is this inscription :

IN · MEM · ALFREDI ·
REG · REZTAVR :
ANO · DO · 1085.

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The name, the inscription, and the writing over the doors, of the convention between the good king and his pagan enemies, were probably all suggested by the similarity of *Achelie*, the antient name of this place, to *Æglea* *, where king Alfred rested with his army the night before he attacked the Danish camp at Ethandun, and at length forced Godrum to make such convention.

The topographer would have been remiss and inexcusable in passing by so curious a place without notice; but the historian would be equally culpable who should not inform the reader, that this building is an excellent imitation of antient ruins. We shall close our account of it with a well-known story. A traveller on his visit to this place, being attended by an old woman who resided here for many years, having expressed a degree of pleasure and surprize at the great antiquity of this secluded building; O dear, Sir, replied the poor woman, my Lord intends to build another house shortly, *two hundred years older*.

The truffle is a vegetable production, found in considerable abundance in Oakley woods; and perhaps

* Diluculo sequenti illucescente, rex inde castra commovens, venit ad locum qui dicitur *Æglea*, et ibi una nocte castrametatus est. Inde, sequenti mane illucescente, vexilla commovens, ad locum qui dicitur *Ethandun* venit; et contra universum paganorum exercitum, cum densa testitudine, atrociter belligerans, animoseque diu persistens, divino nutu tandem victoria potitus, &c. *Afferius de Rebus Gestis Ælfredi*. Editio T. Wise, p. 34.

there

there may be other curious plants to attract the notice of the botanist, but we are not prepared to give a catalogue of them.

Annexed is a plan of Oakley woods, and two views of Alfred's-hall.

Of the Streets, Buildings, &c.

THE town consists of eleven streets besides lanes, as appears by the plan annexed, and they are as follow :

1. *Dyer-street*, but more antiently *Chepyng-street*, and *Chipping-street*, so called because the market was held in it, is that by which you enter the town from London and Oxford. From the round stone near the bottom of it, to the other extremity, at the crossing of the four principal streets, it measures 542 yards.

2. *Cricklade-street*. This is so called because it leads to the antient town whose name it bears. A branch of the river Churn formerly ran down this street to Watermore. From a stone which was the pedestal of a cross, and stands where the roads intersect at the bottom of the street, to the other extremity, it measures 360 yards.

3. *Castle-street*, antiently *Battle-street*, so called from its pointing to the antient castle. It is that which leads to Tetbury, Bristol and Bath; and from the

crossing of the road at the bottom of it, where stood another cross, to the other extremity in the middle of the town, is 274 yards.

4. *Gosditch-street*, corrupted from *Fosse-dyche-street*, so called, because it led to the Foss-road for Gloucester, and because it was also a deep ditch and waterway along which the river Churn antiently ran, in its passage through the town, but long since filled up. That a branch of the Churn ran along this street by the Ram-inn, is not only probable, from what Leland says of it; [*Be lykehood, says he, yn times past cutts were made that partes of Churne streame might cum thorow the citte, and so to retorne to their great bottom. Itin. v. 5.*] but appears to be a fact, from the testimony of a deed dated 1413, in which the late Rev. Mr. Collinson found this expression, *Nova crux juxta flumen*, the new cross close by the river; which cross we have already shown stood nearly opposite to the east front of the Ram-inn. And we ourselves remember that when the vault was dug under the street opposite Mr. Gregory's house, stones set up edgeways, like those commonly placed in water-courses for people in crossing to step on, were found about six or seven feet below the level of the street, and the earth at that depth was uncommonly moist. The course of this branch of the river must therefore have been formerly along this street and down Cricklade-street, and so on to join another branch at Watermore. From the end of this street, at the corner of Mr. Gregory's house, to the first bridge at the abbey-mill dam, is 180 yards.

5. *Dollar-*

5. *Dollar-street* was called in antient deeds *Le Fosse*, because it was a continuation of the last-mentioned street. It commences at the bridge where that ends, and extends to the second bridge towards Gloucester, and is 190 yards long.

6. *Saint Lawrence-street*, otherwise *Gloucester-street*. It was so called because the church of St. Lawrence stood in it, and because it leads to Gloucester. This street, from the second bridge, where *Dollar-street* ends, is 427 yards long. A part of the river Churn ran along it for the whole length, and for a part of the way, in a channel of four or five feet below the foot-path on each side of it, and the water was discharged into another branch of the river at the second bridge; but the current was stopped, and the whole channel filled up, about twenty years since, at the expense of Mr. Blackwell, who was at that time one of the representatives of the borough. This hollow way was really a nuisance to the inhabitants, and a disagreeable entrance for travellers; and without doubt was a part of the channel in which the water antiently ran thro' the town, as just before observed.

7. *Cecily-street*, or *Cecily-hill*, called also *Inchstropp-street* in a court-roll 16 R. 2. and in another 7 H. 6. It took its name from the church of St. Cecilia which antiently stood in it, where, according to William of Worcester, king Arthur was crowned; but the church has been long since taken down. The length of this street is 190 yards.

8. *Black-*

8. *Black-jack-street*, now so called, we apprehend to be the same with *St. John's-street* as mentioned in a deed of 1509. This commences at the bottom of *Cecily-street*, and leads towards the parish church of St. John, 'till it falls in with *Gofditch-street*, and is 300 yards in length.

9. *Silver-street*, making a communication between *Black-jack-street* and *Castle-street*, is 75 yards long.

10. *Coxwell-street*, was so called from the name of a person of considerable family and property who lived in it; but it was more antiently called *Abbat-street*, because it led to the abbey. It is 221 yards long.

11. *Saint Thomas-street* had its appellation from St. Thomas's hospital standing in it; and extending from Groomstole-bridge to one end of *Dollar-street*, is in length 227 yards.

Besides these streets, there are

Shoe-lane, so called from the shoemakers formerly settling there.

The Butter-row, and

The Butcher-row, erroneously so called. No place could be more inconvenient for butchers. It is by far the narrowest and most confined part of the town, whereas the business of a butcher requires room and air. The proper name of it, as we find in the register-book of St. Mary's chapel, belonging to the present parish church, is *Bocherewe*, that is, the *Taylor's-row*. Shakespeare, speaking of a person in his play of *All's well that ends well*, says, He was a botcher's

cher's prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipt for getting the sberiff's fool with child. Even at this time taylors are called botchers in derision.

Sheep-street-lane, on the south-west side of the town. A part of this name seems redundant.

Spital-gate-lane, or corruptly, *Spiringate-lane*, on the north side of it.

Law-ditch-lane, on the west side. And in the before-mentioned register-book mention is made of *New-street*, *Sloter-street*, and *Raton-row*; but where they were situated is to us uncertain.

Like most old towns, some of the streets are narrow. The buildings are chiefly of stone, and a great number of houses are very respectable, but they stand too dispersedly to attach the traveller's notice. Were they arranged together, they would form a handsome assemblage of buildings which few country towns could equal. But there are also some mean houses in most of the streets, consisting chiefly of those which our well-disposed ancestors left in trust for charitable uses. These are mostly leased out on lives, with uncertain fines at renewal, which accounts for their retaining their antient form, and disfigure the town, as in general the tenants attempt no improvements beyond absolute convenience. And indeed what prudent man will build at great expense, on a tenure so uncertain, where the terms of renewal are at the will of the lessor? We wish the trustees to apply to parliament for a power to sell the fee of all houses in mortmain,

main, and to lay out the produce on lands, or government securities; the town would then be improved, and the charities benefited.

Great Roads, Stage Coaches, &c.

SEVEN great turnpike-roads diverge from the town, which makes it a great thorough-fare. Two of them are directed eastward, of which one leads thro' Burford and Oxford to London; but the other, which is the most frequented, leads to the metropolis, through Lechlade, Farringdon, and Abingdon. A third leads southward to a part of Berkshire, North-Wiltshire, and Hampshire. A fourth points westward, and at about four miles distance, branches off to the left for Malmesbury, Chippenham, and Devizes; whilst the other, and most frequented branch, leads thro' Tetbury to Bath and Bristol, and so onwards to the western counties. A fifth is directed north-westward to Minchin-Hampton, Stroud, and the great Gloucestershire clothing country. A sixth leads more northward to Gloucester, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire; but at the distance of ten miles, it branches to the right for Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Worcester, and Birmingham. And the seventh leads directly north to Stow-on-the-Wold, and so on to Warwickshire, Leicestershire, &c. See the annexed map of Gloucestershire.

Upon

Upon these roads several carriages keeping their regular stages, open a commodious intercourse between this town and many great manufacturing places, which is a great convenience to the inhabitants; and so many roads centering here necessarily occasions a great deal of travelling, so that next to Gloucester it maintains the first rank among the market-towns in the county.

The vast labour and expense which the Romans bestowed upon their roads, evince, that they thought good roads essentially connected with the welfare of a country. But notwithstanding the example which they left behind them, it is probable that the public roads fell into neglect soon after they withdrew from Britain; for little is the interest of a country attended to, during a state of warfare and internal commotion, such as this was involved in, immediately upon that event. The wretched inhabitants were plundered and murdered, at different times, by pretended friends as well as enemies; by Saxons, Danes, and Normans; and the miseries of civil dissensions and religious bigotry have ever since been entailed on us, 'till within a few ages past, when we began to emerge from darkness, and to attend to arts, manufactures, and internal improvements: but the public roads seem to have been taken last into consideration.

The first effort of English legislation on a subject so much connected with the prosperity of a people, is an act of Edward the First, in 1285, for enlarging

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the breadth of highways from one market-town to another, which was however intended rather to prevent robbery, than otherwise to facilitate travelling. And afterward the roads of particular districts were amended by several laws in the reign of king Henry the Eighth. The first general law which obliged every parish, by four days labour of its inhabitants, to repair its own roads, passed in the 2d and 3d years of the reign of Philip and Mary, where it is recited that the highways were noisome and tedious to travel in, and dangerous to passengers and carriages. And it is certain that even within memory it was three good days journey for a horse or coach from this town to London.

Our pleasures are chiefly derived from present enjoyments and future prospects; but it is no less agreeable than useful to take a retrospective view of things, and to mark the various steps to gradual improvement in their progress to perfection.

About a century ago turnpikes were erected, thinly erected, in various parts of the kingdom; but to whose good sense we are indebted for the thought, we have never been informed. It met, however, at first, with the common fate of most endeavours at improvement. The turnpike-scheme was exploded with the odious term of *innovation*; and who does not know how powerfully the minds of unthinking people are influenced by ambiguous words, ill understood, or not at all understood, which designing persons make use of, to attach the giddy multitude to their designs?

Some

Some of the first erected gates were forcibly levelled, by mobs of colliers, labourers, and people of various descriptions, for which a few met their fate at the gallows.

The great London road from this town to St. John's Bridge, a stretch of about fourteen miles, was often impassible. But an act of parliament was obtained in the 13th year of George the First, for erecting turnpikes on that district, by which means travelling became more practicable. And the road gradually tho' slowly improving, an enterprising person, with spirited exertions, set up a stage-coach to ply from this town to the metropolis, in two days. It was certainly a very convenient and useful institution, and seems to have been much encouraged; for not long afterward, the coach performed this journey in *one* day, and from its great expedition it became very famous, and was said to *fly*, and so obtained the name of the *Cirencester Flying Coach*. If it be considered that coaches in those days were clumsy machines, and drawn by a species of cart-horses, this will indeed appear to be a great performance. The carriage was above twenty hours upon the road, but this expedition was thought impracticable during the winter half year, during which it was two days upon the road, and then it was said *not to fly*. And this was the state of things 'till about thirty years since.

There are now several regular coaches passing through the town to and from London on the one hand; and to and from Bristol, Bath, Tetbury and Stroud, on the other.

The first we shall mention keeps its course alike throughout the year, and sets out at Six o'clock on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, from the Bell Savage Inn, Ludgate-Hill, London, and arrives here at Ten the mornings following; and after a short stay to refresh, proceeds for Stroud, where it arrives at One. Returning from thence at Three, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, after a short stay here to change horses and refresh, it sets off at Six, and arrives in London about Ten the following mornings. This is called the *Stroud Coach*.

Another coach sets out from the same London-inn, in the winter season only, on Monday and Wednesday evenings, at Six; and the mornings following arrives here at Ten, and at Tetbury at Twelve. From Tetbury it returns thro' Cirencester the same days, and sets out hence at Six in the evening for London.

Both these, it may be observed, are evening coaches, travelling all night. But in the summer season there is a morning coach, which many prefer. It sets out from the same London-inn, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, at Four; arrives here at Six in the evening; and after a short stay, proceeds for, and reaches Tetbury, at Eight. From thence it returns on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, at Four; and passes thro' Cirencester, a little before Six, in its way to London, where it arrives about Eight the same evening. The present fare, in each, from Cirencester to London, is 25s.

Beside

Beside these, a mail coach from London, through Oxford, to Bath and Bristol, arrives here every day at Ten in the morning; and is here again upon its return to Oxford and London between Three and Four in the Afternoon.

It has been observed that in the summer the old Flying Coach was upwards of twenty hours upon the road from hence to London; but it appears by this account, that the present coaches perform the same journey, with a very small variation thro' the year, in sixteen. This difference arises from the improvement of roads, and from driving lighter and more active cattle; but we mention this circumstance as nothing extraordinary, for we believe that some others make greater expedition. Nor would we be understood to approve of the great celerity with which some carriages travel; for tho' reasonable speed is commendable, yet every day presents excesses in that way, sufficient to excite our indignation at the sufferings of that NOBLE AND GENEROUS ANIMAL THE HORSE. If we have his services, he is entitled to our humanity and care. But alas! he experiences a cruel lot in the hands of modish and unthinking travellers. Is it to *distinguish themselves* that this poor animal is put to the utmost distress, without the smallest occasion? In this, we trust they will not be envied, and we hope not imitated. Who does not feel for that generous animal, driven by the whip to exertions which nature is unable to bear! Who does not shudder at the mere relation of his limbs dropping off at
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the joints, from excessive labour! And who can bear to behold his sufferings, panting, and at length expiring, upon the road with fatigue!—Such things we have all heard of, many have seen, and too many alas! have been accessary to. How shall we account for this conduct on rational principles? Surely it is not, that in proportion as men rise in the ranks of life, they sink in the scale of humanity. Nor will we venture to say that this kind of ostentation is a part of that system of show and externals, by which alone some people are able to attract public notice.—Cruel, ungrateful man! know that distinction thus acquired is highly disreputable; that every species of cruelty to animals is totally incompatible with a generous mind; and that no person of sensibility can behold it with indifference. Should any think that we have unnecessarily enlarged on this disagreeable subject, which however fell naturally in our way, they will candidly consider, that the strictures are general, and point at no individual. Our intentions are perfectly pure, and if the sentiments are just, there needs no apology to plead for the innocent, the injured, and oppressed.



CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Markets and Fairs, Trade, &c.

HERE are two markets in the week, one on Monday, the other on Friday. In some old deeds we read of the cheese-market, grafs-market, meal-market, and wool-market. Where the two former were held is uncertain. The meal-market was kept in that open space a little on the north side of the church; which however has ceased long since to be appropriated to that particular purpose. The wool-market was held at the Boothall, where were large rooms to stow the wool, of which within memory, vast quantities out of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, were brought weekly; and the principal street was so thronged with wool-waggons about forty years ago, that it was difficult for other carriages to pass. The market for wool was on Friday; but the wool-dealers travelling the country, and buying that commodity at the farm-houses, soon reduced the market for it to a mere nullity, and there has been none sold here for many years. But this day's market is still held for other commodities, such as poultry, eggs, butter, and butcher's-meat.

Monday's

Monday's market is general for all commodities; and the situation of the town makes it very much frequented; for to the eastward and north-eastward are great corn countries, and westward is a large and populous district full of clothing manufacturers, where very little corn grows, and great quantities are consumed. It is this midway situation, between sellers and buyers, which makes it particularly convenient to both, and in a great measure compensates for the want of a navigable river; so that this corn-market is thought to equal, at least, and by some to exceed, that of Gloucester, notwithstanding its advantage from the navigation of the Severn. It may be added, that the city of Bristol frequently avails herself of this market, particularly for barley. The customary measure here, upon an average, is nine gallons and a pint to the bushel; and the load of wheat is understood to be forty bushels, or ten sacks.

Not even in the London markets have we seen better beef, mutton, pork, and veal; but with fish the town is served with a sparing hand. A few trout, jack, eel, and small fish, are brought hither from the Thames and the neighbouring little rivers, very excellent indeed, but at eightpence and tenpence a pound; salmon at various prices. In the height of the season, it is commonly supplied with that excellent fish from the Severn, at sixpence and sevenpence a pound. But we had almost forgot to mention, that the city of Bath, in return for the best butter and poultry of this market, which she obtains by means
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of higlers and forestallers, *condescends*, by the same hands, to spare the town a few superfluous soals, lobsters, and crabs, perhaps a little before they get offensive. Barrel oysters come from London; large lean oysters from Bristol and Pill; and we have heard, at least in the streets, of fresh mackerel, from we know not where.

Before we quit this subject, it may not be improper to observe, that we have something to blame, as well as something to commend. Of the vast quantities of grain of all sorts sold here every week, not a sack is pitched in the market. The farmer, in his pocket, brings about half a pint in a purse for a sample, by which, if he like the market-price, he sells the load or quantity; if not, he has only to carry back the sample as he brought it. And thus the expenses of portorage and housage are avoided.

Tho' this topic has not been unfrequently discussed, yet, as we conceive very cursorily, and now falling in our way, as incidental to the market, we presume to offer a few considerations on it.

Whether the practice of selling corn in a market by sample be lawful, is not our present purpose to enquire. We shall content ourselves with enumerating some of the principal effects of it. The practice may in some measure be necessary in London, tho' certainly not in the country; and we are of opinion that it has been very injurious to the public. Within memory, all corn was brought in bulk, and pitched in this market, where private families purchased im-

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mediately

mediately of the farmer. But selling by sample deprives them of that opportunity. The farmer sells no small quantities, and thus private families are thrown into the hands of the mealman and baker, who are middle men between the grower and consumer. It has been asserted, that these middle men can sell flour and bread, with a due profit from each, as cheap or cheaper than families make them from corn. Of this we have our doubts; but for the present we will only ask, Whether they really do so? To this question we answer positively, No; subjoining our reasons.

The same bread, as to quality and quantity, which the Cirencester baker sells to his poor neighbours for a shilling, ready money, he sends to the distance of ten or a dozen miles from home, burthened with the expenses of a horse, a servant, and turnpikes, and there sells it upon credit for elevenpence. And taking interest of money and risk into the account, the difference between ready money and credit, in favour, however, of the latter, (can you believe it reader?) is about twenty *per cent.* Now, to say nothing of his wholesale customer, from whom he must be supposed to derive some profit, we believe nobody will contend, that the baker's superior skill can enable him to sell bread as cheap as private families might make it from corn. Another inconvenience is, that if an industrious family should be disposed to eat a browner bread, full as nutritive and relishable, and considerably cheaper, they are thus deprived of the means.

But

But lastly, there is something in the practice of sample marketing which gives the seller an advantage over the buyer: The latter, unable to estimate the number of samples in the sellers pockets, tho' he might judge of the quantity if pitched in the bulk, is thus deprived of the benefit resulting from the appearance of a full market. And this advantage, against the public, we conceive to be impolitic as well as unjust.

This advantage was never more apparent than in the markets of the three or four last months preceding the harvest of 1795. The buyers were necessitated to hunt for samples of wheat and flour, and to solicit the price as a favour; whilst the sellers availed themselves of the numbers and necessities of their customers. But the farmers, the mealmen and jobbers, in this trying time, were themselves under no small difficulty. It was not easy for them to determine whether their inordinate desires might be best gratified by making sure, at the present moment, of a price *by much too high*, as their own phrase was; or whether hunger and necessity might not impel the people to give a more exorbitant one. To effect the latter purpose, they had only for a short space to keep the corn at home. Such reservation, indeed, might expose them to tumultuous outrage, but many hazarded the experiment; and against two well-known adages, have found, that necessity has been regulated by law; and that it is not invariably true, that *Hunger breaks thro' stone-walls*: for notwithstanding many considerable well-timed donations to the poor about the close

of the winter, the want of employment soon left them penniless, and very severely pressed with hunger; whilst every necessary of life was so rapidly advancing, that in a short time wheat sold in this market for a guinea a bushel: and yet we have heard of only one instance of any farmer or mealman, or even jobber, in Gloucestershire, having had a handful of property either taken away or destroyed. And all circumstances considered, it must be acknowledged, that during this *extreme dearth*, the poor in general have behaved peaceably and orderly throughout the kingdom.

Here it may not be amiss to state two or three facts concerning the produce of the harvest, and the state of the markets in 1795. Of barley, beans, pease, and oats, it is generally agreed, that more abundant crops have scarcely been remembered in one year; the wheat crop, was not so good as, whilst growing, the public were made to believe, and must be rated rather under mediocrity; yet, notwithstanding the finest harvest that ever was known, (which fitted the grain very soon for grinding) and under the influence of a general practice of mixing barley, potatoes and other substitutes with wheat, and a prodigious importation of foreign corn, old wheat sold, during the months of September and October, at 12 and 13s. and new at 10 and 11s. the bushel, in this market; and flour, for a part of that time, at 3*l.* 15s. the sack, containing five bushels, of 56*lb.* each.

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The exorbitant price of all other goods may either be alleviated or avoided by the use of substitutes, or by shifting without them for a time. But this was a monopoly * of a cruel nature, for what is the substitute for bread? And what procrastinating argument can avail against the loud calls of a hungry belly? It must be repeatedly recruited at any rate, and at short intervals; and it is this *necessity* alone which constitutes the vast difference, so much overlooked, between a monopoly of corn and that of any other property; It is this which empowers the sellers, when but few of them, to make their own prices.

Perhaps, as we have hinted in the preceding note, the farmers and dealers in corn and flour, have only availed themselves of the times, as other tradesmen have sometimes done, without infringing the existing laws. But the reader already perceives the disparity between the power of the farmer to advance the price

* Dr. Adam Smith contends, that of all commodities corn is the least liable to be engrossed and monopolized, as it lies in a great number of hands, who can never be collected into one place, to enter into any general combination. This we readily allow, but abundant experience proves, that a natural disposition in all mankind, and not more strongly implanted in the growers of corn than others, to advance their property, when aided by a scanty stock, will always advance grain to an exorbitant and disproportionate price. And without any actual agreement, the same ill consequences will result from such circumstances, and the public necessity, as from the strictest and most oppressive combination.

of wheat, in times of scarcity, and that of any tradesman in possession of a monopolized commodity. The cases are vastly dissimilar. He who wants a new coat when cloth is extravagantly dear, may shift longer without one; but no person in a time of dearth, can fast for two or three weeks together. A monopoly of corn differs, therefore, from that of all other things. And the difference lies in the *necessity from hunger*, which obliges every body to buy to eat, be the price of corn what it may.

Thus the poor inhabitants of this kingdom, in common with those of others, have experienced (we thank God, for a short time only) the pinching hand of hunger; but there may come a time, when those whose care extends over the whole community, may take due measures to restrain the exorbitant price of corn *. They may think it incompatible with the general good, to leave one set of men any longer possessed of the power, who have been found not to want the will, to satiate their exorbitant passion for gain at the expense of their benefactors; at the expense of that public, who, to encourage husbandry, and those engaged in

* In the house of commons, Dec. 11, 1795, Lord Sheffield in one part of his speech, is said to have delivered himself thus: "It will be fortunate if the present scarcity should turn
" the attention of the legislature to some great measure, which
" may prevent in future a precarious dependance on foreign
" countries for our subsistence."

it, have paid many millions † in bounties for the exportation of grain. Saying this, we mean not in the least to reflect on the farmer, as a man. In selling his property to the best advantage, he has probably done no more than any other man in the same situation would have done: Yet, since human nature is more or less tinctured with a selfish principle, it may be expedient, in a matter of such general importance, by some effectual means to restrain the exorbitant price of grain.

The bounty on exportation not only advances the price in plentiful years, but prevents the redundancy of one year from relieving the scarcity of another; and of this scarcity the growers and dealers have not failed to take the utmost advantage: whereas the equity of the case seems to require, that as the public, by paying those bounties, have secured a better price to the farmer * in times of the greatest plenty; so, in return, the latter, in justice, ought to be content with a reasonable profit in times of scarcity.

These

† The bounty on the exportation of corn was first granted by parliament in 1689. And from that time to the end of the year 1764, 14,332,435 quarters and 3 bushels of wheat; 2,543,096 quarters of barley; 13,653,186 quarters and 1 bushel of malt; and 2,288,321 quarters and 7 bushels of rye, have been exported with the bounty, amounting in the whole to the sum of £.6,658,702 10s. 11d.

* Some persons have supposed this country to have been greatly benefited by the bounty on the exportation of corn; and

These observations were introduced by exposing some of the disadvantages sustained by the public from corn not being brought in bulk to the market. But that is not the only irregularity to be complained of. There should be a time fixed for the beginning of

and alledge, perhaps justly, that the average price has fallen since the bounties have been established. But if this may not be improperly given in argument, yet it is far from a convincing proof; for this event must have happened notwithstanding the bounties, as it has happened in France during the same period, where there was no bounty. And Dr. Adam Smith, in his elaborate Enquiry concerning the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, from which the substance of this note is extracted, has pretty clearly shown, that this country is really injured by the bounty. It is a very heavy tax on the public two ways, first in paying the bounty itself, and secondly in its consequences. For suppose the bounty of 5*s.* for every quarter of wheat exported should raise the price of the home consumption only 6*d.* the bushel, one year with another; the public will then pay 4*s.* upon every quarter they consume. And as the well-informed author of the Tracts upon the corn-trade makes the home consumption to be thirty one times more than the quantity exported; consequently, for every 5*s.* paid in bounty, the public pays 6*l.* 4*s.* advance by reason of it. So very heavy a tax upon the first necessary of life must either render the poor less able to bring up their children, and so it restrains population: or, by occasioning some augmentation in their pecuniary wages, and shortening the ability of others to employ so many hands as they might otherwise do, it restrains the industry of the country. The extraordinary exportation with bounty, by restraining population,

of the market, or notice of it given by the ringing of a bell. The higler and regrater ought to be restrained. But in this market buyers observe neither mode nor time. No person can complain of the smallest restraint. Butcher buys of butcher, badger of badger,

lation, and checking industry, diminishes the home consumption just as much as it extends the foreign market; and tends, in the long run, rather to lessen than to augment the whole consumption of corn: For the real effect of the bounty is not so much to raise the real value of corn, as to degrade the real value of silver, and all home-made commodities; since the money price of corn regulates that of labour, of grass, hay, butcher's-meat, land-carriage, and all manufactures, and in short of the greater part of the inland commerce of the country.

And if, in consequence of the bounty, the farmer should sell his corn at 4*s.* instead of 3*s.* 6*d.* the bushel, and pay his landlord a money-rent in proportion, yet that 4*s.* will at length purchase no more home-made goods than 3*s.* 6*d.* would have done before; and the farmer will not be able to cultivate much better, nor the landlord to live handsomer for the bounty. It puts, indeed, a little more money into the pockets of both; but it raises the price of labour, provisions, &c. and tho' some of them may think themselves the richer, yet the rise in the money-price of all commodities tends to make every body the poorer. The rise of corn, by bounty on exportation, is not a rise in its real value, which no country can advance, being always equal to a certain quantity of labour and of commodities for which it can be exchanged. And when the country gentlemen in parliament obtained a bounty upon the exportation of corn, they did not, as they imagined, increase the real value of that commodity; but loaded the public with a very

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badger, and the purchased articles may pass thro' a dozen hands in the same day and place with impunity. The inhabitants forego their rights, and tho' they are guarded and secured by good laws, the officers of the town give themselves no trouble to carry them into execution.

Fairs and Mops.

HERE are three fairs in the year. The principal of them is held on Easter-tuesday; the others on the 8th of July, and the 8th of November. And there are besides two statute-markets, commonly called *mops* in this country, held on the Monday preceding, and the Monday following, the 10th of October; and when that day of the month falls on a Monday, it is a mop-day also, and then there are

heavy tax. By lowering the real value of silver, the general industry of the country is in some degree discouraged, and instead of advancing, it really more or less retards, the improvement of their lands. But further, exportation of corn under bounty tends to enable foreigners to eat bread cheaper than our own inhabitants, and so to undersell us not only in foreign markets, but even in our own. And according to this very sensible author, who, in the second volume of the before-mentioned work, has discussed this important subject at large, the many millions which this country has paid in such bounties, have really had a very disadvantageous effect.

three

three that year. These markets are prodigiously thronged by two classes of people. The lower sort stand in the principal street to be hired for servants, with bits of whipcord, wool, cow-hair, or other badge in the hat or bosom, to denote themselves candidates for the respective services of carter, shepherd, dairy-maid, or in some other line of country business. The other class are masters and mistresses, chiefly in the farming business, who come to hire them.

Races.

ABOUT forty years ago, a subscription was set on foot to establish an annual race here; and certainly few country towns afford better accommodation, and but few race-grounds are firmer and more commodious. But the question upon the general utility of races seems to be determined in the negative here, by the discontinuance of the town subscription. For a few years there were three days sport, then they dwindled into two, and for the last six or seven years, they have not been constant, but only held here and at Tetbury alternately.

Navigation, Trade and Manufactures.

NAVIGATION and manufactures are the two principal means by which places commonly rise to
X 2 eminence.

eminence. In a book * printed more than a century back, we have read a project which had been formed, for joining the Thames with the Severn; and it seems to have been discussed, and kept alive in the public prints, 'till at length, by authority of parliament, in the year 1775, a canal for a part of a line between those great rivers was begun, and not long afterwards compleated, from a place called Framilode, on the east bank of the Severn, to Walbridge, near the town of Stroud. And by an act which passed in 1783, the other part of the line from Walbridge to Lechlade was set about and finished in 1789, which made a compleat junction of those two great rivers. This was effected by the intervention of the Cirencester water, by means of which also there is a navigable cut of about a mile in length from the direct line of the canal to a quay on the south side very near to the town: And on this quay the company of proprietors have a proper warehouse and other conveniences suitable to their undertaking. Whether this may ultimately turn out much to the advantage of the town, we are not inclined to hazard a conjecture. But the Shropshire and Staffordshire coals, which constitute the great bulk of carriage upon this canal, are not as yet rendered cheaper to the town than they were when brought by land from Gloucester. Hope however kindly whispers in the ear, that when the Newport

* *Yarranton's England's Improvement by Sea and Land.*

canal is finished, the town and neighbourhood of Cirencester will get the Monmouthshire coals, which are said to be as good at least as those of Newcastle; and that they may be rendered as cheap or cheaper than the inferior sorts they now use.

Formerly, as old writers say, the clothing business flourished here. By a record quoted in Madox's *Firma Burgi*, p. 273, it appears, that several merchants (as they are called) of Amiens, of the names of Giles Beaupigne, Henry Beaupigne, John de Sancto Finciano, and Robert his brother, settled here in the ninth year of king Edward the Second; but we suppose them to be dealers in wool, rather than clothiers, for the year 1331 marks the first arrival of walloon manufacturers from abroad, when Edward III. wisely determined to invite foreigners into England, to instruct his subjects in the useful arts. And as early as 1337, it was enacted, that no wool should be exported; and that no clothes made beyond sea should be imported; that foreign cloth-workers might come into the king's dominions, and should have franchises granted them. Before this time, says De Wit, when tumults in Flanders obliged manufacturers to take shelter in other countries, the English were little more than shepherds and wool-sellers. But henceforward manufactures became the object of legislation; and it is probable that the clothing business was settled in this town about that time. At least here was a company of weavers who had regulated their trade as early as the beginning of the reign of king
Henry

Henry IV. and sir William Nottingham, the king's attorney-general, founded a hall for them, with four habitations for the poorer sort of that fraternity, by the name of St. Thomas's hospital, and endowed it with a small revenue, as we shall show hereafter. And king Philip and queen Mary granted them a charter, which was recited and confirmed by queen Elizabeth in the following inspeximus.

The Charter of the Weavers Company.

ELIZABETH by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland queen, defender of the faith, &c. To all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting. We have seen the letters patent of our lord and lady Philip and Mary, late king and queen of England, sealed with the great seal of England, in these words. PHILIP and MARY by the grace of God king and queen of England, of the Spains, France, both the Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, defenders of the faith, &c. To all to whom these letters may come, health. We have seen certain customs and antient constitutions to the mystery or occupation of weavers within the town of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, antiently respecting and belonging, written on parchment in these words:

HEREAFTER followeth the customes and constitutions of olde antiquytie oute of tyme and mynde belonginge to the crafte and occupation of weavers in the towne of Cysceter, in the county of Gloucester. FIRST, the custom is, that within the said towne of Cysceter, there shall be for ever two of the most discreetest and wisest men of the mysterie of weavers frelie chosen and appoynted amonge themselves, in place convenyente, to be masters and wardens of the said occupation; which

which so being chosen, shall contynue and exercise that office and roome, for one yere only. ALSO the custome is, that all the occupation of the crafte of weavers within the said towne, upon lawful summons and warninge to them geven, by the said maisters or wardens for the tyme beinge, shall once every yere appeare and assemble themselves together: That is to say, upon the eve or day of Saint Katheryne, or bothe, in such convenyente place within the said towne where the said maisters shall appoynte, aswell to electe and chose newe maisters or wardens to the said number of two for the yere folowinge, as to heare the accompte of the old wardens; and for all such things, rents, or custumable and ordinarie sommes of money, which they have receyved to the use and for mayntenance of the said occupation there, duringe their said yere. And any man so warned, being within the said towne, and not appearinge as aforesaid, to forfitt for his or their defaulte, three shillings fourepence. ALSO the custome is, that the newe wardens and maisters, immediatlye after their election in the said place, where they be elected upon the said eve or day of Sainte Katheryne as aforesaid, shall yerely likewise receyve and take the said accomptes of the said olde maisters or wardens, in the hearinge of the said occupation of weavers then presente; and that after the said accompte fynished and ended, the said olde maisters and wardens shall then and there yelde and delyver up into the hands of the said newe maisters, all and all manner of writinges, evidences, courte rolles, indentures of prentizes, and other myniments and escriptes whatsoever, which they have in their kepinge and custody, concernynge the said occupation of weavers. And yf they fayle to make the said accompte, and will not accompte in manner and forme aforesaid, nor will delyver up the said writinges in manner and forme aforesaid, that then every of them to forfeit for his or their defaulte, twentie shillings. ALSO the custome is, that the maisters or wardens for the
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tyme beinge, shall have auctority, and shall duely see and provide, that all the customs and orders herein conteyned, or any other hereafter to be by them the said maisters with the reste of their company made, well and trulie to be observed and kepte by all and every of the companye of weavers, the prentises, and servants, and they with other of the auncientes of the said crafte, at all tymes, and from tyme to tyme duringe their yere shall assemble themselves in places convenyente, as well for the redresse and amendmente of any thinge amyssed amonge the said companye of weavers, as for the makinge of any other good, honest, and lawfull order, for the better maynetaunce of the same. ALSO the custome is, that no man shall take a Prentise unto the said crafte, withoute the licence of the said maisters or wardens, to the intente that they shall see that the said prentise shall be bounde to suche one, as shal be able to instricte and teache hym the arte of weavinge, and able to performe all promises and agrementes conteyned in the Indentures of Prentisship, to be made between his maister and hym. And that none shal be bounde prentise within the said towne, withoute sufficient suerties to be bounde for hym to the said maisters or wardens there for the tyme beinge, aswell to discharge and pay all such synes and duties hereafter conteyned in this custumary, which he ought to paye, as to be obedyente duringe the tyme of his prentisship to the said maisters or wardens, and to kepe all honeste orders and customes concerninge the said occupation. And the said maisters or wardens, upon complaynte to them made by the said prentise or his freindes, to see the said prentise to have all manner of duties to hym promised by his maister, accordinge to the agremente and true meninge declared in the said Indentures of Prentisship. ALSO the custome is, that no man shall set up any lombe within the said towne to his owne use, withoute the licence of the said maisters or wardens for the tyme beinge, and before he hath agreed with them therefore,

and

and upon his agreament promised to fulfil, observe, and kepe all the customes and orders concerninge the said occupation, for the better maynetenance of the crafte, as hath ben and is accustomed. And that the said maisters or wardens shall licence none to sette up any such lombes, unles he that shall so sett upp be worth fyve poundes in moveable or unmoveable substance, or hath landes to the yerely value of twentie shillings. ALSO the like custome and ordynance shal be for all forreners and oute commers, which so submyttinge themselves, and agreinge with the said maisters in manner and forme afore-said, shall have such freedoms as though they had ben prentised in the said towne. ALSO the custome is, that no jurneyman or other covenante servante, havinge not ben before prentise in the said towne, shall worke in the arte or occupacion of weavinge there, withoute licence or agreament of the said maisters or wardens for the tyme beinge. And if any of the said occupacion sett them a worke contrarie to this order, he shall forfeit for every tyme so doinge, three shillinges fourepence. ALSO the custome is, that if the said maisters or wardens shall at any tyme or tymes within their yere, lausfullie sommon or sende for all or somme of the said fellowshipp of weavers, for any reformation to be had concerninge their said crafte, yf he that is so warned or sente for be within the said towne, and come not at the said warning, havinge no lawfull excuse, therefore shall forfeit to the said fellowship, for every such defaulte, three shillinges four pence. ALSO the custome is, that for all manner of fynes, amercyamentes and forfaytures, which shall happen to be forfayted for the breche of any order or custome before or after conteyned in their presents, or otherwise, the said maisters or wardens for the tyme being, for lacke of payment thereof, shall at all tymes and from tyme to tyme distreyne pott, panne, or any other the proper goods or cattals of hym which shal be so fyned and amerced, which they or any of them shall fynde in his howse that is amerced,

or els where, and the distresses so by them taken, safelye to retayne and kepe, untill they be fully thereof contented and payed. PROVIDED alwayes, that they shall take the constable or serjaunte of the said towne with them at every such tyme to take such distresses, yf they can gette hym, or either of them, allowinge hym or them for his or their paynes for that tyme, four pence, or else to do it themselves. ALSO IT IS accustomed, that yf any jorneyman or prentices of the said occupacion be disobediente to his or their maister, and will not be ruled, that then his or their maister for his lafull remedye in that behalfe, shall complayne to the said maisters or wardens of the said weavers for the tyme beinge, who, upon the said complaynte so to them made, shall forthewith sende for the said jorneyman, and upon examinacion had, yf they fynde hym faultye, they shall streight admonyshe hym to be of better behavior towards his said maister. And yf estsonnes he shall offende therein contrarie to this order, then at the second tyme, the said maisters or wardens shall forthwith geve order and charge to all the occupacion within the said towne, that none of them shall sett hym that hath so offended a worke, or suffer hym to lye or boorde in their howse or howses withoute the special licence or consente of the said maisters or wardens, upon payne that whosoever shall do the contrarie after such charge so geven, shall forfeite for every time six shillings eight pence. And yf he be a prentice, he shall be likewise sente for as aforesaid, and upon examination had, yf they shall fynde hym faultie, or that he will not be ruled, they shall also gentlie admonishe hym to amend. And yf he offende therein againe, notwithstanding the said warninge, the second tyme, then he shall forfeite for every suche offence two shillings sixpence, the same to be payde forthwith by the maister of the said apprentice, of the money which shall be to hym due by his said maister at the ende of his yeres; besides that he shall be scourged, and have such laful correccion for his offences,

as contrarie to the said admonyfhmente, as by the said maisters or wardens shal be thought mete and convenyent. ALSO it is accustomed and ordeyned, that no weaver within the said towne, shall sett two of his or their apprentices at any tyme to weave together in one lombe, upon payne of forfeit for every tyme so doinge six shillings eight pence. ALSO it is accustomed, that yf any prentice lacke meate, drinke, or rayment, or any other thinge, which that his maister is bounde to hym for, or that his maister doth mysuse hym or unseasonably handle hym, then for his lausful remedye and redresse thereof, he shall complayne unto the said maisters of the crafte, who shall see a remedye for yt. And yf yt so be that the maister of the said apprentice will not use his prentice no otherwise, after his monition by the maisters or wardens, then by this said custome, the said maisters or wardens shall take the said prentise, and putt from hym the same prentise to one other of the said occupacion, where they shall thinke convenyent to serve oute his yeres then to come, by reason of his indenture. And further, the said maisters or wardens shall cause the maister of the said prentise, to pay so much of the porcion of money due to the said prentise, for the tyme that he hath ben with hym in service. AND ALSO it is accustomed, that all the occupacion of weavers, and every one of the same arte, prentise or other, shal be obedient to the said maysters or wardens of the crafte for the tyme beinge. And not to checke neither comptrolle them, or any of them, at any tyme beinge, in the office or executinge the same, upon the payne that for every tyme so doinge, to forfett to the said maisters and crafte three shillings foure pence. And also that there shall noe person, weaver or maister of the said crafte of weavers within the said towne, take any cloth to weave of any clothier within the said towne, or withoute, that doth warpe or spole the said cloth in his owne howse before it commeth to the howse of the weaver that shall weave the said cloth, excepte the said clothier were

a prentise to the said crafte of weaving before, uppon the payne to forfeyt for every suche cloth so taken to weave contrarie to the meaninge aforesaid, at any time to the said crafte six shillings eightpence. ALSO it is agreed, that yerely upon the election of the newe wardens, after they have taken the said roome uppon them, and have also taken all the said accompts of the old wardens in manner and forme aforesaid, that ymmediatlye after, before they departe oute of the said place where suche election and accompte is made, they the said newe maisters or wardens shall then and there openly reade or cause to be redde and published, all the said statuts herein conteyned, or any other hereafter to be made in forme aforesaid, to the whole companye of weavers then present, their prentises and servants. And that none of them of the said occupacion of weavers, their servants or prentises, shall departe or be absente duringe the tyme or publishinge thereof, uppon payne to forfeyt for every such departynge or absence by them, or any of them, two shillings. In testimony whereof, we have made these our letters patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the eighteenth day of February, in the eighth year of our reign.

Examined by us, { RICHARD REDE, } Clerks.
 { JOHN GYBSON, }

This company is still in being, and in virtue of their charter, continue to meet annually on the eve of St. Catherine's, in their Hall in St. Thomas's hospital, which is an antient, low building, standing in a street to which it gives name. To this meeting all the members are summoned, and regaled with cakes and ale, at the expense of the company. Here they read over the charter, and the accounts of the old wardens, and elect new ones. They admit new members at pleasure, without

without regard to their line of business; and in short, not any of the company's transactions have the least relation to weaving.

The institution at present is valuable only for a rent-charge of 6*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* paid out of an estate at Thornbury, in Gloucestershire; and for the above-mentioned hospital, wherein are four little tenements for such four of the poor fraternity of weavers as the company may elect, betwixt whom the rent-charge is equally divided.

We have observed that some old writers represent that a great stroke of clothing has formerly been done here; and indeed it might seem so to them. What in their time might appear a great business would now be considered as trifling. They say the same of Tewkesbury, Newent, and Northleach; but the truth seems to be, that all these places were incapable of doing much business, for want of rivulets on which to erect fulling-mills. And it was probably this defect which ultimately occasioned the decline of their manufacture in those places. Demands increasing beyond what the clothier could supply, he naturally quits his residence, and settles where mills might be erected.

There is at present only one clothing-house in this town, which employs the same stock-mill that Leland mentions to have been built by John Blake, the last abbat of Cirencester, besides another seven or eight miles distant; and we are disposed to think that the business was never greater here than at present.

To

To encourage this manufacture, the town formerly obtained a grant of two cloth-fairs annually, one of which was in the week before Palm-sunday; the other in the week before the feast of St. Bartholomew; but they are both discontinued. Fairs, indeed, for the sale of manufactures, are every where much on decline, since travelling for orders became so general, as Bristol, Chester, and other places, will testify. They are at present chiefly in use for the sale of the natural productions of the country, as cattle, &c. of which no pattern can be given, nor judgment formed from description. And even in those commodities there are dealers who buy them on the spot, to the detriment, I had almost said injury, of fairs and markets, and of the general trade and interest of market-towns.

Within the space of a few years, here were many wealthy woolstaplers, who drove very considerable trades in breaking and sorting of wool, into the various finenesses and qualities which the fleece affords. A very useful and necessary set of tradesmen. The woolstapler simplifies the clothier's business by supplying him with that particular sort of wool which his trade requires; for there are but few clothiers who use all sorts. And it is the woolstapler's purse which bears part of the burthen of the clothier's stock, in its progress from the sheep's back to the draper's warehouse; and thus enables the manufacturer to do more business than his own capital commands.

This business does not employ many hands, but is an extensive concern. The woolstaplers here were
not

not confined to the manufactures of Gloucestershire, but were connected with Wiltshire, Somersetshire and Devon, and indeed with most places where the woollen manufactures flourished.

Most of those tradesmen drove also a very considerable trade in spinning of woollen yarn, for the use of those who made cloth for the east-india company. It was a very lucrative branch, and good fortunes have been made in it, tho' almost as simple as can be imagined. The wool employed in this branch was of the coarser kinds. At first it was a little hollowed and cleansed from dust, by tearing it asunder in a coarse machine called a wool-mill, and then sprinkled over with rape-oil, to make the woolly fibres slip easily in drawing out the thread. This was all that was done in the tradesman's house. Thus prepared, the wool was sent to the adjacent villages, and distributed by weight among poor families, where the women and children carded and spun it, and then made up the yarn into skeins of an indefinite weight. At stated times, when the work was supposed to be done, the tradesman's servant revisited the villages, and received the yarn by weight, making an allowance for necessary waste; and afterwards delivered out fresh work. And thus the whole process was repeated.

Profits are generally governed by a combination of circumstances. A trade admitting of large returns, easily understood, and the customary credit not particularly long, is usually carried on with moderate profits.

profits. But in this business we have a particular exception. For a considerable length of time, it yielded a profit of thirty per cent. and yarn was of so ready a sale, that the buyer often importuned for it without success. Had the yarn-maker consulted his permanent interest, the trade might have been of longer duration: But avarice, always eager in pursuit, not unfrequently overshoots the object of its wishes. Yarn was sold by weight, and a pound of oil being of less value than the same weight of wool, it became at length a pretty general practice, to use twice or thrice as much of it as was necessary; for tho' it increased the weight of the yarn, yet it was lost in the fulling, and added nothing to the cloth. Hence it was, that the clothiers of the best property were induced to make their own yarn, and consequently this trade very rapidly declined.

About the time, too, when the wealthy clothier began to make yarn, (we say the wealthy clothier, for the circumstances of some would not admit of it) a machine for spinning was brought into use in Yorkshire, and having found its way into these parts, almost totally superceded the former practice of spinning by the single thread. This gave a fatal blow to the yarn-business at Cirencester, and proves, we fear, an irreparable loss to the industrious inhabitants of the villages round about, to whom it had furnished constant employment, and a comfortable maintenance. We are sorry to add, also, that by the death of some of the principal woollstaplers, their
numbers

number is very much reduced; but the survivors carry on business with reputation. We have bestowed a few lines, (we hope not unnecessarily) in describing the spinning business, merely to expose the effect of covetousness, in a case of fact, which may serve for a salutary monition in other concerns.

Forty or fifty years ago, the town enjoyed a considerable share in the wool-combing business, and there are numerous vestiges of the combers' wool-lofts still to be seen in some of their old houses, distinguished by doors in the garret-walls, for the convenience of taking in wool-packs. But that business has been long in decline, and is now at its last gasp, under the pressure of the war with France.

Here is a small carpet-manufacture, where that useful and ornamental kind of furniture is executed in a considerable variety of patterns, and in a handsome and improved manner.

Here, too, are a few makers of moreens, harateens and cheney's, in the upholstery line; of boulding cloths, for the use of millers to sift their meal; of light stuffs, girth-webs, gartering and bindings.

We now come to notice a favoured manufacture, which, under proper management, might long since have rivalled all the others put together. It is that of frame-work knitting. It was set on foot above sixty years ago, in pursuance of the will of Mrs. Rebecca Powell*, with a house built at about 1200*l.* expence, and a large annual income to initiate lads in

* See Benefactions, p. 311.

the business, and to set them up in it with a frame and a small portion of materials to begin trade for themselves. By this charity, some children have been maintained and clothed, taught to read, write, and cast accounts; and, we hope, have received the benefit of religious instruction; but of all the lads brought up in this nursery, we know of but four who do anything to the trade in the town, three of whom have but lately begun; and, except in the particulars just mentioned, we verily believe that 'till within about half a score years, this noble institution has contributed but little, if at all, to the general good. The master who was first chosen to teach the lads frame-work knitting, and who continued in that employment for more than thirty years, tho' we believe him to have been an honest man, appears to have been indolent and ignorant in the nature of trade; and he was succeeded by persons still less capable or less attentive. Hence an enormous sum and much time have been expended, without adequate success. At length, the experience of half a century evinced, that things had run in a wrong channel, and therefore the governors, about a dozen years ago, appointed the present master, with an able person to instruct the lads; and we are happy to find, that diligent attention has been given to the business ever since, and that now they manufacture hose with so much credit, particularly in the lambs-wool and cotton branches, that orders are more abundant than can always be supplied. Expectation

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is on tip-toe, and we are disposed to add our opinion, coincident with the general wish, that since the grand obstacle is removed, there are no improvements in this charity and manufacture, which the public may not expect from the vigilance and good disposition of the present trustee. So far as these facts may be thought to bear hard on individuals who are now no more, we avow with reluctance; and nothing but an inviolable regard to truth and rectitude, and a desire of awakening public attention to charities, should have forced them from us.

Here is also, and has been for many years past, a small manufacture of heavy edge-tools in general, which are held in great reputation, but the knives which curriers use for shaving leather deserve particular notice. They find a market all over Europe and America, and are made at three or four houses here, and one at Gloucester, and no where else in this kingdom. The manufacturers at Birmingham, Sheffield, and some other places, have struck at this branch, but without success. These knives are about eleven inches long, and of various breadths, have two straight parallel edges, and are easily formed, but the difficulty lies in the temper. They must carry an edge as strong and as sharp as a razor, and of so tough and even a temperature, as to bear turning for the whole length whilst cold, by rubbing and gradual pressure on one side with a smooth steel instrument, without suffering the smallest crack or flaw, till brought to stand at a right angle with the side of the blade.

And this requires so nice a temperature, as might be difficult for even the ingenious Mr. Hartley to give.

Here are at present two breweries for porter, ale, and table-beer. Other smaller manufactures we forbear to enumerate, as not having an equal claim to notice, from their being commonly found in most market towns.

Banks.

AS gentlemen and tradesmen of good property sometimes stand in need of temporary assistance, here are two well established Banks for that purpose, supported by large property, and conducted with great regularity and prudence, whose notes have consequently a free and extensive circulation.

From these manufactures and other trades, together with the common labour incidental to market towns, the inhabitants find employment, and the town maintains its population, so that there is scarce a tenement void. The inns are well supported by the great travelling thro' the town, and the shopkeepers and retailers have very considerable dealings with the inhabitants of the circumjacent towns and villages who frequent this large market, and have moreover a necessary trade and intercourse with their own townsmen, which together enable them to live handsomely, and
some

some have made good fortunes. But they very sensibly feel for the absence of the gentry from their usual places of residence. Rendcombe, Compton, Stowell, the Amnies, Driffeld, Ashton, Somerford, Oaksey, Sapperton, Pinbury, Side, and Miserden, are all villages within the boundaries of a small circle round the town, which have to lament the want of house-keeping in their respective manor houses. In most of these, within memory, the tradesman found a valuable customer, the farmer a friend and adviser, and the poor inhabitants hospitality and charity. This defection has been variously occasioned, and it would be fortunate were it peculiar to these parts. It has been owing not only to unavoidable accidents, but to fashionable dissipation. It were much better for the gentry themselves, as well as for the country in general, were they more seldom seen at public and private gaming-houses; at Bath, Brighton, Newmarket, and other places of public meeting. There the young, the gay, and unthinking of both sexes are initiated in the mysteries of gaming and intrigue; and to these may be attributed the numerous instances of incontinence, so much and so frequently exposed in our courts of justice; and the alienation of so many family estates as soon as the heirs come into possession.



CHAP. III.

1. *Of the Hundred, in its present State.*
2. *The Court of Requests, &c.*

1. *The Hundred in its present State.*

IT has been shewn at some length, p. 118, that the antient hundred included many circumjacent villages: and that in the beginning of the reign of king Henry the Fourth, the town was made a separate and distinct hundred, excluding the abbey, the Almery, and Spiringate-lane, and so it has continued ever since. Two high constables are annually appointed over it at the leet, by the steward of the manor.

The hundred is divided into seven wards, viz.

1. Dyer-ward.
2. Cricklade-ward.
3. Castle-ward.
4. Gofditch-ward.
5. Dollar-ward.
6. Saint Lawrence-ward.
7. Instrip (formerly Inchstrop) ward.

To each of these wards, two wardsmen or petty constables are also appointed by the steward at the annual leet; at which time he makes choice of such other officers as are necessary for examining weights and measures, the state of the rivers, and doing other public matters within the jurisdiction of the hundred. And not only such nuisances and offences as are presentable at other leets are cognizable here, but about a dozen or fourteen years ago, we were favoured with the sight of a notable presentment of one of the leet juries, who, in the plenitude of their wisdom, exceeded all others we ever heard of. They presented as nuisances, all waggons that *should stand in the streets on Sundays, from the then present court-day 'till the next year's court.* This was no ordinary stretch of power. It was taking cognizance of what was not then knowable, and presenting what was not *in esse*. For the credit of the court, we hope this presentment does not stand on record.

There was antiently a court held in this hundred, from three weeks to three weeks, for taking cognizance of all debts arising within it not exceeding the value of forty shillings, which right was continued and exercised from its first institution down to the year 1792, when it was abolished by an act of parliament, [32 G. 3] by which another court was established in its stead, under the title of

2. *The Court of Requests, for the Manor and Seven Hundreds of Cirencester, in the County of Gloucester.*

THE act which establishes this court passed 32 G. 3, and is entitled, *An Act for the more easy and speedy Recovery of small Debts within the Hundreds of Cirencester, Crowthorne and Minety, Brightwells Barrow, Rapsgate, Bradley, Bisley and Longtree, commonly called The Seven Hundreds of Cirencester, in the County of Gloucester: And is as follows:*

WHEREAS the Right Honourable *Henry Earl Bathurst* is lord of the manor and Seven Hundreds of *Cirencester*, in the county of *Gloucester*, comprizing the hundreds of *Cirencester, Crowthorne and Minety, Brightwells Barrow, Rapsgate, Bradley, Bisley and Longtree:*

And whereas there is a Hundred Court held from three weeks to three weeks, within and for the said Seven Hundreds of *Cirencester*, by the deputy or steward of the lord of the said manor and hundreds, for that purpose appointed, taking cognizance of all personal actions where the debt or damage does not amount to Forty Shillings:

And whereas the proceedings in the said court in such actions have been found to be vexatious, expensive, and dilatory: For remedy whereof, and for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts within the said division or district called the Seven Hundreds of *Cirencester:*

May it please Your MAJESTY,
That it may be enacted; And be it enacted by the KING's most excellent MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent
of

of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by authority of the same, That the reverend *John Alleyne*, of *North Cerney*, clerk, *John Raymond Barker*, of *Fairford*, esquire, *Michael Hicks Beach*, of *Williamstrip*, esquire, *Joseph Borton*, of *Cirencester*, grocer, *John Brown*, of *Cirencester*, Tallow Chandler, *Henry Burgh*, of *Stroud*, esquire, *Charles Ballinger*, of *Chalford*, clothier, *Archer Blackwell*, of *Chalford*, clothier, *Robert Croome senior*, of *Cirencester*, cheese factor, *William Croome*, of *Cirencester*, cheese factor, *Edward Cripps*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Joseph Cripps*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *John Cripps*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, the reverend *Charles Coxwell*, *James Fielder Croome*, of *Cirencester*, *Robert Croome junior*, of *Cirencester*, the reverend *D. Cumberland*, of *Driffild*, *James Edwards*, of *Fairford*, clerk, *John Edmonds*, of *Welford*, mealman, the reverend *Edward Hawkins*, of *Bisley*, clerk, *Edward Haines*, of *Badgingdon*, gentleman, *John Haines*, of *Baunton*, gentleman, *John Howes*, of *Winsen*, gentleman, the reverend *Thomas Tyndale Jayne*, of *Rendcombe*, clerk, *John Jasper*, of *Cirencester*, distiller, *John Ingram*, of *Coln Saint Aldwins*, esquire, *Thomas Jones*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *Thomas Master*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Thomas Master junior*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Richard Master*, esquire, *William Yarnnton Mills*, of *Bisley*, esquire, *Timothy Stevens*, of *Cirencester*, stationer, *William Stevens*, of *Cirencester*, silversmith, *John Saunders*, of *Cirencester*, innholder, *Thomas Strong*, of *Cirencester*, mercer, *Thomas Vaisey senior*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *Thomas Vaisey junior*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *Samuel Walbank*, of *Chalford*, esquire, being the First List: And *John Canter*, of *Cirencester*, plumber, the reverend *James Daubeny*, of *Stratton*, *Thomas Forder senior*, of *Cirencester*, *William Hall*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Giles Haines*, of *Daglingworth*, gentleman, *John Keble*, of *Fairford*, clerk, *William Kimber*, of *North Cerney*, gentleman, *William Lawrence*, of *Cirencester*, surgeon, *John Smith*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *George Lewis*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman,

Charles Tyrrel Morgan, of *Fairford*, esquire, *John Millington*, of *Coln Rogers*, gentleman, *Joseph Pitt*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *William Peacey*, gentleman, *fir George Onesiphorus Paul*, of *Rodborough*, baronet, *Samuel Rudder*, of *Cirencester*, printer, *John Chaunler Ready*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *John Roberts junior*, of *Cirencester*, ironmonger, *Richard Selse*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Robert Sandford*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *John Smith*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Thomas Smith*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Robert Timbrell*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *William Turner*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *Thomas Turner*, of *Cirencester*, mercer, *Robert Thompson*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, *William Tombs*, of *Coates*, gentleman, *William Tyndale*, of *North Cerney*, esquire, the reverend *John Washbourne*, of *Cirencester*, D. D. the reverend *William Shippen Willes*, of *Cirencester*, clerk, the reverend *William Wilkins*, of *Cirencester*, *Samuel Webb*, of *Cirencester*, malster, *John White*, of *Cirencester*, cutler, *John Williamson*, of *Cirencester*, mercer, *William Wilkins*, of *Cirencester*, esquire, *Edward Wilbraham*, of *Horsley*, esquire, and *Thomas Yarnold*, of *Cirencester*, gentleman, being the Second List: all being inhabitants householders, and resident within the limits of this act, shall be and they are hereby declared, constituted, and appointed commissioners to hear and determine all such causes and matters of debt as are hereinafter mentioned; and such commissioners and their successors are hereby constituted a Court of Justice, by the name and stile of "The Court of Requests for the Manor and Seven Hundreds of *Cirencester*, in the County of *Gloucester*;" and they the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall and they are hereby authorized, impowered, and required to assemble, sit, and hold the said court in and for the said manor and hundreds in the town of *Cirencester*, on *Thursday* in every week, and oftener if there shall be occasion, in a court house or some convenient place to be appointed in the said town by the major part of the said commissioners, who shall be assembled at a
general

general meeting to be held for that purpose, which general meeting shall be on the fifth day of *July* one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two.

Provided nevertheless, That in case Three or more of the said commissioners appointed or to be appointed by virtue of this Act, shall neglect or refuse to assemble on any of the days appointed for holding the said court, that then it shall be lawful for the clerk of the said court, and he is hereby required to adjourn the said court to the next general court day, on which the said court ought to be held.

And be it further enacted, That no person shall be capable of acting as a commissioner in the execution of this act, unless at the time of his acting he shall be an inhabitant householder, and resident within the limits of this act, and shall be in the actual possession and enjoyment of a real estate of the clear yearly value of Twenty Pounds, above reprises, or be possessed of a personal estate to the amount or value of Five hundred pounds, nor until he shall have taken an oath in the words or to the effect following; (that is to say)

“ I *A. B.* do swear, That I will faithfully, impartially,
“ and honestly, according to the best of my judgment,
“ hear and determine all such matters and causes as
“ shall be brought before me, by virtue of an act,
“ passed in the thirty-second year of the reign of king
“ *George the Third*, for, &c. [*Here set forth the title*
“ *of the act*] without favour or affection, prejudice or
“ malice, to either party.

“ So help me GOD.”

Which oath the clerk of the said court, or any of the commissioners who shall have taken such oath, is and are hereby impowered and required to administer in open court; and the clerk of the said court shall enter, or cause a memorial thereof

to be entered in the register of the said court; and if any person, not being qualified as aforesaid, shall nevertheless presume to act as a commissioner in the execution of this act, every such person shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of Ten Pounds to any person who shall sue for the same in any of his Majesty's courts of record at *Westminster*, wherein no essoin, protection, wager of law, or more than one imparlance, shall be allowed; and the person prosecuted shall prove that he is qualified as aforesaid, or otherwise shall pay the said penalty, without any other proof on the part of the prosecutor than that such person hath acted as a commissioner in the execution of this act.

And be it further enacted, That from time to time, and as often as it shall be necessary, either by the death of any of the said commissioners hereinbefore particularly named in the first list, or any of their successors to be appointed in manner hereinafter mentioned, or by his or their refusing or neglecting, for the space of twelve months, to act herein, or by his or their ceasing to be a householder, or removing out of the limits of this act, it shall be lawful for the owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors, of the said manor and Seven Hundreds for the time being, at any time after such death, refusal, neglect, or removal, to appoint a commissioner in the stead and place of each such commissioner so dying, or neglecting or refusing to act, or removing as aforesaid; and every such commissioner so appointed shall be and is hereby enabled to act in the execution of this act, as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as if he had been particularly named in this act.

And be it further enacted, That from time to time, and as often as it shall be necessary, either by the death of any of the said commissioners named in the said second list, or any of their successors to be appointed in manner hereinafter mentioned, or by his or their refusing or neglecting, for the space of twelve months, to act herein, or by his or their ceasing to be a householder,

holder, or removing out of the limits of this act, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners named in the said second list, or any five or more of them, in court assembled for that purpose, at any time after such death, refusal, neglect, or removal, to appoint a commissioner in the stead and place of each such commissioner so dying, or neglecting or refusing to act, or removing as aforesaid, and every such commissioner so appointed shall be and is hereby enabled to act in the execution of this act as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as if he had been particularly named in this act: Provided always, that no appointment of commissioners shall be made by the said commissioners as aforesaid, unless fourteen days notice be given of the court at which such appointment is to be made, by advertisement in some newspaper printed in the county of *Gloucester*, if any be so printed; but if no such paper be printed, then in some newspaper generally circulated in the said county.

And be it further enacted, That the commissioners so named and appointed, and their successors to be appointed in manner as herein is mentioned, or any Three or more of them, from time to time assembled as aforesaid, shall have power and authority, by virtue of this act, to hear and determine all such causes and matters of debt as shall be brought before them, in manner as hereinafter is mentioned, and to give such judgments, and to make such interlocutory and final orders and decrees therein, and to award such execution thereupon, with costs, both against the bodies and the goods and chattels of all and every the person and persons against whom they shall give or make any such judgment or decree, as to them shall seem just, and most agreeable to equity and good conscience; and if the commissioners so assembled shall happen to be equally divided upon any question that may come before them, the commissioner present whose name stands first on the list of commissioners directed to be kept in the court house or place where they shall respectively meet, shall have the casting vote.

Provided

Provided always, That none of the said commissioners, nor any person who shall keep any victualling house, alehouse, or other house of public entertainment, or who shall sell any wine, cyder, beer, ale, spirituous or other strong liquors, by retail, shall be capable of holding any place of profit belonging to the said court.

And be it further enacted, That *Joseph Pitt*, gentleman, shall be and is hereby constituted and appointed clerk of the said Court of Requests; and that *Richard Pearce* shall be and he is hereby appointed serjeant of the said court, who shall continue clerk and serjeant of the said court so long as they shall behave themselves well in their respective offices.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the clerk to the said commissioners for the time being, by writing under his hand, to appoint a fit and proper person to be his deputy, for transacting the business of the said court, and such deputy shall have the same powers and authorities, and be under the same restrictions, rules, and directions, and subject to the same penalties, in every respect, as the clerk by whom he shall be so appointed is hereby invested with, or declared to be under and subject to.

And whereas the said *Henry earl Bathurst* hath the right of nominating and appointing the steward and bailiff of the said court, which is now and hath been usually held within and for the said manor and Seven Hundreds; Be it therefore further enacted, That from time to time, whenever it shall happen that the place of clerk or serjeant of the said court shall become vacant, either by death, removal, or resignation, the said earl *Bathurst*, his heirs and assigns, being the owner or owners of the said manor and Seven Hundreds of *Cirencester*, and every other person who shall for the time being be the owner of the said manor and hundreds, shall and he or they are hereby directed and impowered to nominate and appoint another fit person to be clerk or serjeant of the said court, to
continue

continue in their respective offices during his and their good behaviour.

And be it further enacted, That the clerk hereinbefore named, and his successors, so from time to time to be nominated and appointed, or his lawful deputy, shall make, and cause to be fixed up in some convenient part of the said court house, fair and compleat lists in writing of the commissioners herein named and appointed, or to be nominated and appointed as aforesaid; and shall also, and is hereby impowered and required to issue or cause to be issued out all summonses, attachments, warrants, subpœnas, and precepts, and to register and enter, or cause to be registered and entered, all causes, orders, decrees, and judgments, and other acts and proceedings of the said court, in proper books to be provided by him, and kept for that purpose; and that the serjeant hereinbefore named, or from time to time to be nominated and appointed as aforesaid, shall and is hereby impowered and required to serve and execute, or cause to be served and executed, all such summonses, orders, attachments, warrants, subpœnas, executions, and precepts, and to do and perform all such acts, matters, and things as are herein directed and appointed to be done by them respectively.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the first day of *July* one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, it shall be lawful for all and every person and persons whomsoever, who now hath or have, or who shall or may hereafter have, any debt or debts, not amounting to the sum of Forty Shillings, due or owing to him, her, or them, in his, her, or their own right, or as executor, administrator, guardian, or trustee, by or from any other person or persons whomsoever, inhabiting or residing within the said manor and hundreds, or trading and dealing or seeking a livelihood therein, to apply to the clerk of the court, who shall immediately make an entry in his book of the cause, expressing the names of the parties and the sum demanded,

demanded, and shall also thereupon make out and deliver a summons in writing under his hand, directed to such debtor or debtors, expressing the sum demanded of him, her, or them, and the name or names of such party or parties demanding the same, thereby requiring and commanding such debtor or debtors to appear at a certain time and place before the commissioners of the said court, to answer such demand; and the serjeant shall forthwith cause such summons to be served on such debtor or debtors, either personally or by leaving the same at the dwelling house or place of abode, lodging, shop, shed, stall, stand, or other place of dealing or working of such debtor or debtors, within the manor and hundreds aforesaid; and the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall, upon proof made of the service of such summons, have full power and authority, by virtue of this act, to make due enquiry concerning such demands, and to pronounce and give such final sentence or judgment, and to make such interlocutory or final orders and decrees therein, as to them shall seem most just and equitable.

And, for the better regulating the proceedings of the said court, and rendering this act effectual for the purposes thereof, Be it further enacted, That the said commissioners, or any Five or more of them, being a majority of the commissioners assembled in court as aforesaid, shall have full power and authority, by virtue of this act, from time to time, and as often as they shall see occasion, at any of the said courts, to make such rules or orders for the better regulating the practice of the said court, as to them shall seem necessary, and conducive to the purposes of this act, so as they shall be consistent with equity, and do not tend to lessen, abridge, or alter the fees hereinafter allowed by this act to be taken by the clerk and serjeant or officer of the said court for the time being, or to the exercise of any jurisdiction inconsistent with the true intent and meaning of this act, and do relate to the process, practice,

practice, and method of proceeding of and in the said court only; according to which rules and orders, so from time to time to be made, the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall have full power and authority, by virtue of this act, to proceed upon, and to hear and determine all matters of debt, not amounting to the said sum of Forty Shillings, which shall be brought before them by virtue of this act, and to make and pronounce such judgments and decrees concerning the same, and the costs of suit, as to them shall seem agreeable to equity and good conscience.

And, for the better discovery of the truth, and for the more solemn determination of all the causes and matters which shall be depending in the said court, Be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, assembled in court, and they are hereby empowered to administer an oath to the party or parties, plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants, and also to such witness or witnesses as shall be produced by either party, and also to the officers of the court, and to any person or persons whomsoever, whose evidence shall to the said commissioners, or to the major part of them assembled at the said court, appear necessary.

And be it further enacted, That if any debtor or debtors, who shall have been duly summoned as aforesaid, shall, without some good cause to be allowed by the said court, refuse or neglect to appear in the said court at the time mentioned in the said summons, then it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, upon proof being made on oath of the service of the said summons in manner before directed, to proceed to hear the cause on the part of the plaintiff or plaintiffs only, and to make such order, decree, or judgment therein, and to award such costs of suit, as to them shall seem meet.

And be it further enacted, That if upon the day of the return of the summons, or at any continuation or adjournment of the said court, the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall not appear, or appearing shall not make proof of his, her, or their debt or demand, to the satisfaction of the said court, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, to award to the defendant or defendants reasonable costs, and to order and compel the plaintiff or plaintiffs to pay the same, by such ways and means as are herein provided for the enforcing the payment of debts and costs ordered and decreed to be paid by the said court.

And be it further enacted, That in case the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall have made any order or decree for the payment of any money, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, to award execution either against the body or goods of the said party or parties against whom such order or decree shall be made; and thereupon it shall be lawful for the clerk of the said court, at the request of the party or parties prosecuting such order or decree, to issue a precept under his hand and seal to the serjeant of the said court, who, by virtue of any such precept issued upon the execution awarded against the body or bodies of such party or parties, shall and may, and is hereby impowered and required to take and apprehend, or cause to be taken and apprehended, such party or parties, being within the said manor and Seven Hundreds, and to convey him, her, or them to some common gaol or house of correction within the said county of *Gloucester*, there to remain until he, she, or they shall perform and obey such order, decree, or judgment, so as no person shall remain in confinement under such execution for any longer space of time than twenty days where the debt does not exceed Twenty Shillings, nor for any longer time than forty days where the debt exceeds Twenty Shillings; and such imprisonment shall be deemed to be a full discharge
and

and extinguishment of the said debt and costs; and every person so imprisoned shall be discharged at the expiration of the term for which he shall be committed, without paying any fees or other reward or gratuity to the gaoler or keeper of the said gaol or house of correction: And such serjeant, by virtue of any such precept, issued upon the execution awarded against the goods of such party, shall and may, and he is hereby empowered to levy, by distress and sale of the goods of such party, being within the manor and seven hundreds aforesaid, such sum and sums of money, and costs, as shall be so ordered and decreed; and if the party against whose body or goods such execution shall be awarded, and such process shall issue thereupon, shall by absconding, or by secreting or removing his, her, or their goods, or by any other means, prevent or evade the service or effect of any such execution, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, upon due proof thereof made to them by the oath of such serjeant, or of One or more credible witness or witnesses, at their discretion, to award execution, either against the body or goods of such party or parties, and process shall issue thereupon, and be executed by the serjeant in manner aforesaid, until the party or parties at whose suit such execution shall be issued shall be fully paid and satisfied.

And be it further enacted, That in case the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall at any time, upon the request and for the ease and convenience of the defendant or defendants, order and decree the debt due to the plaintiff or plaintiffs to be paid at several payments (which they are hereby empowered to do) then upon the first default or failure of any of the said payments so ordered and decreed, the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, assembled in court, shall and may, at the instance of the plaintiff or plaintiffs, and upon due proof of the said default or failure, award execution for the whole debt, or such part thereof as

shall then remain unpaid, together with such further costs as to them shall seem reasonable, to be recovered by the same process, and in like manner, as is hereinbefore provided for recovery of the debts and costs first decreed, the former order or decree to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That in every precept to be issued on any execution awarded against the body or goods of any person or persons whatsoever, the clerk who issues the same shall express and set down in writing the sum or sums of money, and costs, so ordered and decreed to be paid; and if the party or parties against whom such execution shall be awarded shall, before any actual sale of his, her, or their goods, or before he, she, or they is, are, or shall be taken and apprehended, or before the expiration of the term or terms of his, her, or their imprisonment, pay, or cause to be paid or tendered, unto the clerk of the court, who shall issue such precept, such sum or sums of money, and costs, together with One Shilling as a reward for his trouble in receiving and paying over such debt and costs to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, and entering acknowledgment of satisfaction in the book or register of the said court for such debt and costs, and also the sum of Five Shillings for gaol fees, in case such party or parties shall have been committed to prison, then and in such case and cases the execution shall be superseded, and the body or bodies, and goods, of such party and parties shall be discharged and set at liberty.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case it shall at any time, during the pending of any cause in the said court, appear to the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, upon proof by the oath of any credible witness, that the defendant or defendants therein shall by sickness, poverty, or otherwise, be rendered incapable of paying the debt or demand for which such cause shall have been instituted, then the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall and may suspend or supersede the proceedings in such cause until it shall,

shall, upon like proof as aforesaid, appear to the court that such defendant or defendants shall be able to pay such debt or demand in the whole, or by separate payments, and then to proceed again therein in manner aforesaid, any thing in this act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That if the serjeant of the said court, or any deputy or deputies under him, who shall be employed to serve or levy any execution, shall by wilful connivance or neglect, cause or suffer the party against whom such execution shall be awarded, to escape or abscond, or the goods of such party or parties to be carried away or secreted, so that such execution shall not have its due effect, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, assembled in court, upon complaint and due proof made upon the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to order such principal serjeant to pay the sum or sums of money for which the said execution was awarded, to the party complaining, and to enforce the payment thereof by the same method and means as are hereinbefore provided for the payment of other debts.

And be it further enacted, That the several fees hereinafter limited and expressed, and no others, shall be taken by the clerk and serjeant for the time being, for their several and respective services in the execution of this act; (that is to say)

To the CLERK.

	s.	d.
For entering every cause - - - - -	—	6
For issuing every summons - - - - -	—	6
For every subpœna - - - - -	—	6
For calling every plaintiff or defendant before the court —	3	
For every hearing or trial - - - - -	—	6
For every oath administered in court - - - - -	—	3
For every order, judgment, or decree - - - - -	—	6
For		

For entering thereof	- - - - -	— 6
For a nonsuit	- - - - -	— 6
For every search in the books	- - - - -	— 3
For paying money into court six-pence; and if by instalments, one shilling in the pound more		
For taking money out of court, or acknowledging satisfaction in the clerk's books	- - - - -	— 6
For every attachment	- - - - -	— 6
For every execution	- - - - -	— 6
For every warrant of commitment	- - - - -	— 6
For every warrant to discharge a prisoner out of custody	- - - - -	— 6

To the SERJEANT.

For the service of every summons, order, or subpoena, if within the said town or parish of *Cirencester*, and attending the court with the return thereof, one shilling; and if it be out of the said town or parish, then, in addition to the said one shilling, two-pence *per* mile, for every mile which shall be reasonably travelled, as well in going as returning, in order to serve such summons, order, or subpoena:

For executing every attachment, execution, or warrant, against the body or goods two shillings and six-pence, if the same be in the said town or parish of *Cirencester*; but if it be out of the said town or parish, then, in addition to the said two shillings and six-pence, two-pence *per* mile, for every mile which shall be reasonably travelled, as well in going as returning, in order to execute such attachment, execution, or warrant against the body or goods:

For carrying every defendant or delinquent to prison 5s.

A table of which fees shall from time to time be hung up by the clerk of the said court, in some conspicuous part or parts of the said court house or place where the said commissioners shall

shall meet, so that all persons concerned may see and examine the same.

And be it further enacted, That if the clerk or serjeant of the said court shall take or demand any greater fees or rewards than what are herein before mentioned, for their service in the execution of this act, they shall for every such offence forfeit and pay such fine, not exceeding the sum of Forty Shillings, nor less than Ten Shillings, as the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall assess or impose, to be levied, if not immediately paid, by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or any Seven or more of them; which fine, when paid or levied, shall be applied to the use of the poor of the parish where the offence shall be committed.

And be it further enacted, That if the said clerk or serjeant shall be guilty of any misbehaviour, either by neglect or breach of duty, or taking greater fees than before mentioned, or otherwise, in the execution of their respective offices, that then, upon complaint and due proof made thereof upon oath in open court, it shall be lawful for the said *Henry earl Bathurst*, and his heirs or assigns, being the owner or owners, proprietor or proprietors of the said manor and seven hundreds, and he is hereby required to dismiss or remove such clerk or serjeant from his respective office, and to appoint another in manner hereinbefore directed.

And be it further enacted, That if any commissioner of the said court for the time being shall be party to, or interested in any cause depending in the said court, such person shall not be capable of acting as commissioner in the hearing and determining of such cause, or making any order, decree, or judgment therein, but, after being heard in the said cause, shall withdraw from the said court till the same is finally determined; and if the clerk or his deputy, or serjeant of the said court for the time being, shall be a party to, or interested in any cause depending

depending in the said court, such clerk, deputy, or serjeant shall not exercise his office in the said cause, or in any thing relating thereto, but the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them, assembled at such court, shall and may depute and appoint another person to exercise the said office of clerk or serjeant respectively, in all things relative to such cause.

And, for the better enforcing the orders and decrees from time to time by the said commissioners, and that the commissioners, and the clerk and officers of the said court, may be invested with proper power and authority, and be free and exempt from insult and abuse; Be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall affront, insult, or abuse all or any one or more of the commissioners, or the clerk, serjeant, or officers, of the said court for the time being, during their sitting in the said court, or in going to or returning from the same, or shall interrupt the proceedings of the said court, or at any time shall insult, affront or abuse, hinder or obstruct, or attempt or threaten to hinder or obstruct, the clerk or serjeant in the lawful execution of their respective offices, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them then sitting, or if not then sitting, at the next, or second, or third court to be held after such offence committed, to cause a warrant to be issued by the clerk of the said court, directing such serjeant to apprehend and take, or cause such person or persons so offending as aforesaid to be apprehended and taken, before some justice or justices of the peace for the said county of *Gloucester*, and upon the fact alledged being proved, by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, the said justice or justices is and are hereby impowered and directed to punish such person or persons so offending as aforesaid, by fine, not exceeding the sum of Forty Shillings, nor less than Five Shillings, which shall be immediately paid into the hands of the said justice or justices before whom such offender or offenders shall be convicted, and be paid

paid and applied in like manner as the fines herein before mentioned are directed to be applied; and if the said offender or offenders shall not pay the said fine in manner aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said justice or justices, and he and they is and are hereby required, by warrant under his and their hand and seal or hands and seals, to cause the same to be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, or to commit such person or persons so offending as aforesaid to some common gaol or house of correction in the said county of *Gloucester*, there to remain for any space of time not exceeding one calendar month, or until he, she, or they shall pay the said fine.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the clerk of the said court shall fix, or cause to be fixed or stuck up, in some public part in the said court house, or other place where the said commissioners meet, a true copy of the last preceding clause of this act, to the end that no person or persons shall or may plead ignorance thereof.

And be it further enacted, That the respective keepers for the time being of the common gaols or houses of correction, within the said county of *Gloucester*, shall and may, and they are hereby required and commanded to receive and take into their custody respectively, all and every person and persons who shall be committed or ordered to stand committed by any Three or more of the said commissioners present in court, or by virtue of any warrant, attachment, execution, or other process issuing out of the said Court of Requests; and in case the keeper or keepers of such gaol or houses of correction, shall neglect or refuse to receive and take into his and their custody, any person or persons committed by virtue of this act, or, before the expiration of the time for which any person or persons shall be so committed to his or their custody, shall discharge such person or persons, or wilfully permit or suffer such person or persons to go at large, without a warrant, order, or authority for that purpose in writing, signed in court by Three or more

of the said commissioners, every keeper offending in any of the cases aforesaid, and being thereof convicted before one or more of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the said county of *Gloucester*, upon the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness or witnesses, or on his or their own confession, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence any sum not exceeding Five Pounds, nor less than Forty Shillings, at the discretion of such justice or justices, and such sum shall be immediately paid by the person or persons so offending, into the hands of the justice or justices before whom he or they shall be convicted, or in default thereof shall and may be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, by warrant under the hand and seal or hands and seals of such justice or justices, and which sum, when paid or levied, shall be applied in like manner as the fines herein before mentioned are directed to be paid and applied.

And be it further enacted, That no action or suit for any debt not amounting to the sum of Forty Shillings, and recoverable by virtue of this act in the said Court of Requests, shall be brought against any person or persons residing or inhabiting within the jurisdiction thereof, in any of the king's courts at *Westminster*, or any other courts whatsoever, or elsewhere out of the said Court of Requests; and no suit that shall be commenced in the said Court of Requests, in pursuance of this act, nor any proceedings therein, shall or may be removed into any superior court, but that judgments, decrees, and proceedings of the said court shall be final and conclusive to all intents and purposes.

And be it further enacted, That this act, or any thing herein contained, shall not extend to any debt for rent upon any lease or contract, where the title of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments can or may come in question, or in or upon any other real contract, nor to any debt which shall arise upon or by reason of any cause concerning any last will or testament,
or

or matrimony, or any thing properly belonging to the ecclesiastical courts, nor to any debt for money won at or by means of any horse race, cock match, wager, or any kind of gaming or play, nor for any forfeiture upon any penal statute or by-law, nor to any debt whereof there hath not been a contract, acknowledgment, undertaking, or promise to pay, within six years before the taking out of the summons for the same, although such debt should not amount to the sum of Forty Shillings.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons, making oath or giving evidence in any cause or matter whatsoever, depending in the said Court of Requests, shall commit wilful and corrupt perjury, and be thereof duly convicted according to law, such person or persons shall incur and suffer the like pains and penalties as any other person or persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury is or are liable to, or shall be subject to by the laws and statutes of this realm.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person residing within the said manor and hundreds, who shall be duly served with a subpoena or summons, to be issued out of the said Court of Requests, to give evidence on behalf of any plaintiff or defendant, shall neglect or refuse to appear, pursuant to such subpoena or summons, at the time and place therein mentioned, and due proof shall be made of the service of such subpoena or summons, and no cause of absence be shewn or assigned, to the satisfaction of the commissioners present at the court to which such person shall be by such subpoena or summons required to appear, and oath shall be made before the said commissioners, by the party at whose instance, and on whose behalf, such subpoena or summons issued, that the person served therewith was a material witness for such party, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them assembled at such court, to impose and lay a fine, not exceeding Fifty Shillings, nor less than Five Shillings, to be levied,

levied, if not immediately paid on demand, by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or any Three or more of them; which fine, when paid or levied, shall be paid over to the party at whose instance such subpœna or summons issued.

And be it further enacted, That no attorney at law, or solicitor, being served with a process of the said Court of Requests, or appearing in the same court, shall be allowed to plead or maintain any privilege against the process, authority, jurisdiction, or judgment thereof.

And be it further enacted, That whenever any person shall be committed to prison by virtue of any execution or process issued in pursuance of this act, for the recovery of any debt or costs, the person or persons at whose suit such execution or process shall issue, shall pay and allow to the person committed, the sum of Three-pence a day, for every day he or she shall continue in prison upon the same execution or process, towards his or her subsistence, the same to be paid to the gaoler or keeper of the place where such person shall be confined, or left at his house, for the use of the person so committed; and in case any default shall be made in the payment of the said sum of Three-pence a day, for any one or more day or days, and due proof on oath of such default shall be made, to the satisfaction of any justice of the peace for the county of *Gloucester*, (who is hereby authorized and impowered to administer such oath) then it shall be lawful for the said justice to order and direct such prisoner to be forthwith set at liberty, and such person shall accordingly be set at liberty, without paying any fees or other reward or gratuity to the gaoler or keeper of the said prison or house of correction, and shall be discharged from the payment of the money for which he or she shall have been so committed.

And be it further enacted, That no action or suit shall be brought or commenced against any of the said commissioners,
or

or any other person or persons, for any thing done in pursuance of this act, until twenty-one days previous notice thereof shall have been given to or left at the usual place of abode of the person or persons against whom such action or suit shall be intended to be brought, thereby setting forth the particular cause of action, or after tender of sufficient amends shall have been made to the party aggrieved, nor unless such action or suit be commenced within six calendar months next after the cause of action shall have arisen, and the venue shall be laid in the county of *Gloucester*, and not elsewhere; and the defendant or defendants in such action or suit shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such action or suit shall be brought before the expiration of twenty-one days next after such notice shall have been given as aforesaid, or after tender of sufficient amends shall have been made to the party or parties aggrieved, or after the time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be laid in any other place than as aforesaid, then, and in either or any of the said cases, the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants; and upon such verdict, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or suffer a discontinuance of his or their action or suit after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon demurrer, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall have treble costs, and shall have such remedy for the same as any defendant hath for costs of suit in other cases by law.

Provided always, That no plaintiff, in any action or suit which shall be brought for any thing done in pursuance of this act as aforesaid, shall be permitted to produce evidence of any other cause of action than such as shall be set forth in the notice to be given as aforesaid, or shall recover any verdict against
the

the defendant or defendants in such action or suit, unless such plaintiff shall prove on the trial that such notice was given as aforesaid; and in default of such proof, the defendant or defendants shall recover a verdict and costs as before mentioned; and that in case any person, against whom any such action or suit shall be brought, shall have neglected to tender amends, or shall have tendered insufficient amends, before the action or suit shall be commenced, it shall be lawful for him, by leave of the court wherein such action or suit shall be depending, at any time before issue joined, to pay into court such sum of money as he shall think proper, whereupon such proceeding, order, and judgment shall be had, made, and given, in and by such court, as in other cases where defendants are allowed to pay money into court.

And be it further enacted, That this act shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices, and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

It appears by the preamble to this act, that the proceedings in the old court were *vexatious, expensive, and dilatory*; but we have the pleasure to say, that in the Court of Requests they have been scrupulously exact from its first institution; and that the decisions appear to have been made with the strictest regard to moderation and justice. We therefore sincerely congratulate the public on the beneficial effects of it, which have been felt and acknowledged throughout the large district of country over which its jurisdiction extends. And it is much to be wished, that its powers were enlarged to try debts to the amount of Five Pounds, a sum at this time much inferior in real value to Thirty-nine

nine Shillings and Eleven-pence, at the time when the old court and many other hundred and county courts were first instituted.

This court is held at present at Eleven in the forenoon of every other Thursday, in a large room, now called the Town-hall.

CHAP. IV.

The Borough.

Where prepossession warps the ductile mind;
 Where blindfold education leads the blind;
 Where interest biaffes, ill customs guide,
 And strong desires pour on us like a tide;
 Say, can cool virtue here dissuade from ill?
 Or exiled reason,—pander to the will? POPE.

THIS is a parliamentary borough, but not a corporation. The borough and the hundred are commensurate. It elects two representatives to parliament, and sent representatives to a great council as early as 11 E. 3, but did not acquire the permanent right of electing two burgesses, 'till by grant in the thirteenth year of the reign of queen Elizabeth.

We

We shall now endeavour to show who have and who have not a right to vote at elections here.

At first the free burgesses only were the electors ; but after a contested election in the reign of James the First, it was determined, *That the inhabitants householders, not receiving alms, should make the election.* But since, the right of voting has been variously modified and abridged.

On the 4th of November, 1690, the house of commons resolved, *That the inhabitants of the borough of Cirencester, being inmates, have no right to vote in electing burgesses to serve in parliament.*

And by their resolution of Dec. 1, 1709, *The inhabitants of the Abbey, the Emery, and the Spiringatelande, have not a right to vote in such election.* The reason of this was, that the abbey and its precincts are not within the hundred and borough.

By 26 G. 3. c. 100, it is enacted, *That from and after the 21st of Aug. 1786, no person shall be admitted to vote for members to serve in parliament, for any city or borough of England or Wales, as an inhabitant paying scot and lot, inhabitant householder, housekeeper, and pot-waller, legally settled, or as inhabitant householder, housekeeper, and pot-waller, or as inhabitant householder resident, or as inhabitant of such city or borough, unless he shall have been actually bona fide an inhabitant paying scot and lot, or an inhabitant householder, housekeeper, and pot-waller, legally settled, or an inhabitant householder, housekeeper, and pot-waller, or an inhabitant householder resident, or an inhabitant within such city or borough, six calendar*

calendar months previous to the day of the election, at which he shall tender his vote: and if any person shall vote at any such election contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, his vote shall be deemed null and void, and he shall forfeit to any person who shall sue for the same 20 li. and in every action brought on this account, the proof of inhabitancy shall lie upon the person against whom the same shall be brought. Action to commence within six calendar months. This act not to extend to any person acquiring the possession of any house in any city or borough, by descent, devise, marriage, marriage-settlement, or promotion to any office or benefice. Nor to any other description of persons claiming to vote by any other title, or super-added qualification.

In a committee of the house, March 28, 1792, chosen to try the petition of Robert Preston, esq; against Richard Master, esq; for undue election for this borough, in 1790, It was resolved, *That it is the opinion of the committee, that no person can be deemed a householder, who does not possess an exclusive right to the use of the outward door of the building, altho' by taking inmates he may have relinquished for a Time the exercise of that exclusive right. Neither can a person whose habitation is composed of more apartments than one, be deemed a householder, unless he also possesses an exclusive right to the use of the stair-case, door-way, or other passage, that forms the means of communication between the several apartments, altho' by taking inmates he may have likewise relinquished for a time the exercise of that right.*

The original right to an exclusive use, is then the point
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of discrimination between the householder on the one hand, and the inmate on the other.

The term Outward door of the building, does not include within its meaning, the gate or outward door of a court, or a passage open to the sky.

A house may contain but a single apartment; yet it does not follow, as a necessary conclusion, that a single apartment, tho' furnished with a separate outward door, will constitute a house; for a shop or shed, unless it is used as a dwelling, is certainly not a house.

And on the 29th of March, the same committee resolved, That, in the opinion of this committee, the legal meaning of the term Householders, and Inmates, must be determined on the general principle of the law of the land, and not on any ideas suggested by legal usage.

If a passage is considered as a street-passage, tho' covered, all the houses that have separate outward doors opening to that passage, give good votes.

We may be allowed just to observe, that these resolutions are mostly of a negative nature. It was much easier for the committee to define what *is not*, than what *is a house*, that gives a right of voting in this borough. And it appeared by the pleadings of the counsel on the hustings, in a contested election here in the year 1796; that the latter still remains in some measure doubtful and undefined.

To send representatives to parliament is certainly a *Privilege*, and was originally an *Honor*; but by the present

present mode of elections, and the principles upon which oppositions arise, this Privilege becomes an Evil, and the Honor is *doubtful*. In the generality of contested elections, a candidate is seldom received or opposed on account of *fitness* or *unfitness*, which ought to be the principal, if not the only, consideration. He is often embraced, as an instrument to gratify resentment; or opposed, from dislike to those who espouse him. Thus oppositions more frequently happen from enmity amongst the electors themselves, than from any dislike to, or approbation of candidates. Of all reasons this is the most unreasonable. Society is one of the greatest blessings of human nature, arising from friendly communications, mutual good offices and benevolence. But elections on such principles feed animosities, dissolve friendships, and furnish opportunities for illiberality, obloquy, and abuse; and as few individuals escape them, there cannot be a greater obstacle to the peace and happiness of a place, than the fomenting and cherishing of party distinctions, which poison all the amiable affections of the mind. These evils are also furthered by the ambition of candidates, who obtrude themselves on electors, and furnish the means of gratifying their ill humours. They were not felt when boroughs paid their representatives, and were obliged to those who sat for them.

General prevalency and long habits make things less striking; but if, on examination, these reflections are found to be just, they certainly merit the serious attention of the good people of England.

The franchise of electing representatives to serve in parliament, tho' consigned to individuals, must be considered as a part of the public stock; and the law against bribery and corruption at elections, is a set of restrictive rules to be observed in the exercise of it. It is so fully and aptly expressed against all kinds of undue influence, that it would be difficult to put a case which it would not reach; and so clear and perspicuous, as to be impossible to mistake the true spirit and meaning of it.

This franchise is intrusted with the elector to be conscientiously used for the best interest of his country. He cannot dispose of it for money, place, pension, emolument, nor for the promise of any such thing, without violating that law, and incurring very heavy penalties. It cannot be lawfully bartered for private prospects, nor past benefits. Every man must be grateful, but his private obligations ought not to be discharged by prostituting a sacred trust. These things are contrary to the spirit of our laws, and forbidden by the duties we owe to our country.

Our laws require elections to be perfectly free. And hence it may be clearly inferred, that to oppress an elector for having freely and conscientiously used his franchise, or in other words, for doing his duty, is a species of gross injustice, which, if not restrained by law, cannot be excused or palliated by example. We lament its frequency; but usage and rectitude are too often at variance; and ten thousand reiterated

instances

instances of wrong-doing can never alter the nature of it.

It has been observed that paupers, inmates, and lodgers are excluded from voting, not only here, but in most other parliamentary boroughs: And the reason seems to be, because indigent people are most exposed to seduction.

If some of the lower order of electors fall under powerful temptations and delusive suggestions, they are infinitely less culpable than more independent and better informed individuals, who pretend to be admirers of our excellent constitution, whilst they press electors *to consider on which of the contending parties their interest lies, and who is most capable of serving them.* This is an argument not more frequent than base; for certainly there cannot be a stronger intimation that all is to be resolved into private interest. To act, or advise to act, on such foul, selfish, and corrupt principles, is as derogatory to the true spirit of the law, and of our constitution, as to vote for money. It precludes all discrimination of character, and sets the merits of a candidate at nought. It places knavery and honesty, folly and cultivated understanding upon a level; for private interest may happen to favour the undeserving candidate, and is frequently the means of sending improper persons to parliament. We are persuaded that many well meaning persons have fallen into this error for want of due consideration, and that to such, a short hint will convince them of the impropriety of such conduct.

Having

Having shown, by the best authorities to be produced, who have a right to vote in this borough; and by a few, and we hope convincing, arguments, how electors ought to exercise their franchise; it may, in the next place, be useful to take a cursory view of the duties and business of a parliament-man, whence it may be seen who is a proper object of choice.

The two houses of parliament are the king's grand council: It is therefore no inconsiderable trust to be sent to parliament. It is the business of a representative, wherever chosen, to keep his attention to the general good. He should understand the interests of the several courts of Europe, and the true principles of government and of commerce, as he will have to assist in new modelling old laws, and framing new, for regulating our vast commercial concerns with all the world, and for the internal government of a free people. He must join in taxation for the support of government, and be watchful that the public money is frugally and properly expended.—He must be careful that no branch of the legislature encroaches on the others, and that the liberty and property of the subject are not violated. He must have a competent share of general knowledge, without which no man can judge of measures. The ignorant may gape and acquiesce; and if they mean right, 'tis mere chance that the event is not wrong. He must give due attendance on his duty, for without it knowledge would

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be useless. His duty will be tedious, fatiguing *, and expensive ; and if all be right, not a penny can be reimbursed him.

To discharge with propriety so great a trust, he must be inflexibly honest, of good parts, solid judgment, and of a competent share of learning. To be honest is not sufficient, without a good understanding ; for an honest man may be very silly. On the other hand, 'tis not enough to be sensible and learned, without integrity.

If a parliament-man be materially deficient in either of these, he has obtruded into an important trust to the great injury of his country. In the judgment, therefore, of sober, thinking men, to offer as a candidate for the people's choice, implies no small degree of *confidence* ; a confidence of possessing those qualifications which are not often to be found. And let this be indelibly fixt on the minds of electors, That to the indiscreet and mad choice of unqualified representatives, are to be attributed most of the real evils with which the nation has to struggle.

There are those, it seems, who deem any gentleman of fortune, proper enough to be sent to parliament ; but let such consider what sort of person they would

* Formerly the parliamentary writs directed the electors to choose not only the wisest, but the stoutest men, [potentiores ad laborandum] that they might be able to endure the fatigue of the journey, and of close attendance. In those days, the knights of the shire were paid 4s. and the burgessees 2s. a day, by their constituents, for their attendance.

make choice of for an agent in their own private concerns, and let us suppose the business to require the abilities and qualifications of a lawyer. Would they appoint a man of very moderate understanding, tho' perfectly honest? No.—Would they choose a gentleman of the army or navy, who never turned his back to the enemy? No, not merely as such.—No man of common understanding would wish either of these, or any other, to be his agent, without the requisite endowments. The application is easy. A good soldier or sailor, a good landlord or neighbour, may want the proper qualifications for a senator; for nothing can be more evident than that a person eminently qualified for one situation, may be altogether unfit for another. Misapplications of this nature have sometimes happened by the inordinate zeal of mistaken men, who have thought they were rewarding a deserving and esteemed character by choosing him to parliament; but they ought to know, that the duties of a senator are burthensome, and that his situation is by no means of the nature of a reward. It is indeed a great honour to be freely elected to parliament, implying public esteem on one hand, and distinguished abilities on the other; but to send a person to parliament incapable of filling with propriety the situation to which he is chosen, exposes him to contempt and disgrace, of which a small degree of discernment must make him sensible.

Since then the private affairs of an individual are of trifling consideration when put in competition with
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the great business of the nation, would it not be worse than madness to be negligent in this important matter? And would not the sending a representative to parliament, tho' an honest man, but in other respects unqualified for the trust, be sacrificing the dearest interests of the country to the fond considerations of friendship, and acquaintance; or to the vain display of influence and power?

But alas! how little is the fitness or unfitness of a candidate considered and understood!—Where electors are numerous, many, from prejudice and habit, are captivated by mere noise and show. Thousands have determined their choice by the nonsensical cries of *Blue* and *Yellow*; and the correspondent flags at elections have attracted more ignorant followers than ever fought under the antient Saxon *Refan*.

But there are other delusions. It is curious tho' melancholy to observe, how artfully the public attention is drawn aside from its proper object, to fix it on any trifling circumstance, which may happen to suit the condition of a candidate.—He is the son of some nobleman.—He comes in the interest of some great man.—He is of an antient family.—Is a neighbour.—Will spend a great deal of money in the borough.—Will suffer the electors to kill game in his manors,—*cum multis aliis*.—

Let us now briefly consider one or two of these cases, which are thought to have the greatest weight. *A candidate is the son of a great nobleman, or comes recommended by him.* To judge of the propriety

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of such recommendation, and of the weight it should have with the electors, it should be considered, that the peers derive their honours, and the great privilege of being perpetual senators, from the crown, under which many of them hold places of great profit. For these reasons, the law deems it highly improper for peers to interfere in the choice of members of the other house. Judge Blackstone considers them particularly as guardians of the rights and prerogatives of the crown; whereas the commons are and ought to be guardians of the rights of the people, and jealous of encroachments upon public liberty, by the two other branches of the legislature. It would therefore be improper to elect persons recommended by members of the house of peers, who might unduly influence and seduce them from their duty. And electors devoting themselves to such recommendation, would in effect transfer the choice of members of the lower house of parliament to the members of the upper house, who, by our constitution, ought not to interfere at elections.

But what if a candidate offer himself *in the interest of some other great man*?—To form a proper judgment in this case, we must consider what is meant by *a great man's interest*? And it will be found to be only another name for his *influence and power*. If he possess any number of burgages, the occupation of which gives a right of voting at a borough election, he is said to have an *interest* there; that is, he has the power of turning out such tenants as refuse to comply with his wishes,

wishes, and of replacing them with such as will. But there are other modes of interest, which may be all comprehended in *having a power*, no matter how, *of affecting the private interest of electors*.

Hence it is evident, that tho' a candidate who comes with the recommendation of a person of great interest in a borough, may himself be a very worthy person, yet he is not the more, but really the less acceptable to electors on account of such recommendation, since the interference of power tends to violate the freedom of choice. Such electors, therefore, who have valued their freedom, have commonly united to check *natural interest*, upon the principle that it proves fatal to independence, grasps at all in its power, and ultimately reduces the electors to implicit instruments of ambition and lucre.

The remaining topics of recommendation, with a hundred other such flimsy and nonsensical considerations put together, are mere shadows without substance, and fall infinitely short of reasons for chusing a representative in parliament. Only it may be observed, that of two candidates, equally qualified, the neighbour seems to have a kind of natural preference to the stranger.

But the most powerful influence with good men results from a combination of good sense, amiable affability, inflexible justice, charity and beneficence. Such a character, if known, can have no enemy, and will become irresistible every where, but in a corrupt and rotten borough.

Ye numerous tribe of candidates, behold the arduous trust! Inflexible probity, great ability, and perseverance, are the qualifications. To be materially deficient in either, would prove you more *confident* than *fit*.

Ye worthy electors, to love your country is to love yourselves! If ye have hitherto proceeded on wrong principles, at length hearken to the voice of reason! Harken to the distressing calls of your dear country! Look beyond the present moment. Contemn a little sensual enjoyment. Lay aside personal resentment. Abandon an overweening attachment of acquaintance, and the more seducing consideration of private interest. Chuse representatives properly qualified, so shall they be illustrious in the senate, the pride and honour of their constituents, and the glory and salvation of their country.

In the present state of things, when men's judgments are warped by interest and habit, a sudden and total change is not to be effected; yet the most difficult things may be achieved by adequate exertions.

We are not so vain as to expect our sentiments to be honoured with general approbation, but we think they will be more approved than avowed, and more avowed than carried into practice; for men more readily admit rules of conduct for others than for themselves. Should we succeed in convincing the mind, we entertain some hopes that amendment may follow;

follow; but since to convince is not always to reform, our hopes are limited.

Worn out the subject, dull the manner, and the truths unwelcome, all endeavours will be thrown away upon those who have been long hacknied in venality. To such, not *character* and *ability* in candidates, but the *price* they give is the only consideration. We can fancy our book in the hands of a group of them, simpering with a leer of defiance, peculiar to hardened impenitence. Of such we have no hopes. We write not for M—sb—y nor B—w—n; our book will be equally unwelcome at S—ts—y; condemned every where by those who have large borough interest, and perhaps burnt in Cornwall by the common hangman. It is not to the selfish, and biased opinion of those who would sell their country for a few guineas, a dinner and a bottle, that we submit our unreserved thoughts; but to that of every judicious honest man, who has at heart the welfare of his country. Our strictures and observations are general, and apply to all places which send representatives to parliament; and tho' the evils of which we complain are by far less forcibly felt here than in most other boroughs, yet they certainly exist in some degree, and we deem them fair game wherever found.

The steward and bailiff of the borough for the time being, who are appointed by the lord of the manor, are the returning officers. The present steward is Joseph Pitt, esq; and Robert Thompson, gentleman, is the bailiff.

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The representatives are elected in the town-hall, unless in case of opposition; and then, after opening the business in the hall, the poll is usually adjourned to a stage or temporary hustings in the market-place.

The number of electors varies, but may be averaged at about five hundred.

*A List of the Burgeſſes who have ſerved in Parliament
for this Borough.*

1571,	Gabriel Blike, eſq.	Thomas Poole, gent.
1572,	Thomas Powle,	Thomas Strange, gent.
1585,	Tho. Poole, jun ^r . eſq.	William Eſtcourt, gent.
1586,	Charles Danvers, eſq.	Geo. Maſters, gent.
1588,	Charles Danvers, eſq.	Geo. Maſters, gent.
1592,	Oliver St. John,	Henry Ferrys, gent.
1596,	James Wroughton, eſq.	Henry Powle.
1601,	Rich. Browne, eſq.	Rich. George, eſq.
1603,	Rich. Marten, eſq.	Arnold Oldiſworth, eſq.
	Edw. Jones, k ^t . in Marten's place, and Anth. Mannye, k ^t . in Jones's place, dec ^d .	
1614,	Lord Newborough,	Tho. Rowe.
1620,	Tho. Roe, knight,	Tho. Nicholas, eſq.
1623,	William Maſters, k ^t .	Hen. Pool, eſq.
1625,	Miles Sandys, k ^t .	Hen. Pool, eſq.
1625,	Nevill Poole, k ^t .	John George, eſq.
1628,	Giles Eſtcourt, k ^t , & bar ^t .	John George, eſq.
1640,	Hen Pool, eſq.	John George, eſq.
1641,	Theobald Gorges, k ^t .	John George, eſq. In their places, Thomas Fairfax, k ^t .
		Nath. Rich, eſq.
1653,	The Little Parliament. No boroughs ſent representatives	
1654,	John Stone, of Friday-ſtreet, London, eſq.	
1656,	John Stone, eſq. of Weſtminſter.	

1658-9, John

1658-9, John Stone, esq. Rich. Southby, esq.

These three last were the Common Wealth Parliaments.

1660, Richard Honour, John George.
This was called the Convention Parliament.

1661, Rich. Honour,	John George.
1678, Hen. Powle,	Sir Robert Atkyns.
1680, Hen. Powle,	Sir Robert Atkyns.
1680-1, Hen. Powle,	Sir Robert Atkyns.
1685, Tho. Master,	Earl of Newburgh.
1688, Tho. Master,	John Howe.
1689, John Howe,	Rich. Howe.
1695, John Howe,	Rich. Howe.
1698, Hen. Ireton,	Charles Coxe.
1700, Char. Coxe,	James Thynne.
1701, Char. Coxe,	William Master.
1702, Char. Coxe,	William Master.
1705, Allen Bathurst,	Hen. Ireton.
1707, Allen Bathurst,	Hen. Ireton.
1708, Allen Bathurst,	Charles Coxe.
1710, Charles Coxe,	Thomas Master.
1713, Tho. Master,	Benj. Bathurst.
1714, Tho. Master,	Benj. Bathurst.
1722, Tho. Master,	Benj. Bathurst.
1727, Tho. Master,	Peter Bathurst.
1734, Tho. Master,	William Wodehouse.
1741, Tho. Master,	Henry Bathurst.
1747, Thomas Master,	Henry Bathurst.

But Thomas Master dying in 1748, John Coxe was elected.

1754, John Dawney,	Benjamin Bathurst.
1761, John Dawney,	James Whitshed.
1768, James Whitshed,	Estcourt Cresswell.
1775, James Whitshed,	Samuel Blackwell.
1783, Lord Apsley was chosen without opposition in July,	
James Whitshed having vacated his seat.	

1783, The

- 1783, The same, re-elected on his appointment to be one of the lords of the admiralty.
- 1784, The same. Samuel Blackwell, esq.
- 1785, The same. Richard Master, esq.
- 1789, The same, re-elected, on being appointed one of the lords of the treasury.
- 1790, The same, being appointed one of the tellers of the exchequer.
- 1790, The same. Richard Master, esq.
- 1792, The same. Robert Preston, esq. who had stood a poll in 1790, and on his petition to parliament against Richard Master, for undue election, obtained his seat.
- 1794, Michael Hicks Beach, esq. upon lord Apsley (then earl Bathurst) taking his seat in the house of peers.
- 1796, The same. Robert Preston, esq.

The arms of the town are said to be *A Phoenix in Flames*, as represented in the margin, alluding to the old town having been burnt by sparrows, and this rising out of its ashes, as the young Phoenix is fabled to proceed from the ashes of the old one.



 CHAP. V.

Of the Manor and other Estates.

THE manor of Cirencester is of the antient demesns of the crown, of which domesday-book gives the following particulars.

In Cirecestre Hund. habuit rex E. quinq. hid. t're. Ibi in d'nio v car. & xxxi vill'ni cum x car. Ibi xiii fervi & x bord. & iii molini de xxx solid. prata & ii filvas de l. fol. & ibi ii lib'i ho'es ii car. h'ntes lanam o'nium regina habeb. T. R. E. reddeb. hoc m. iii modios frumenti & dimid. & braisi iii mod. & mell. sex sextar. & dimid. & ix lib. & v fol. & ter mille pan. canibus. Modo redd. xx lib. & v. fol. & xx vaccas xx porc. & pro pan. xvi fol. & de novo foro xx sol. quorum h't S Maria t'cium den.

In Cirecestre unus lib. ho. teneb. ii hid. t're & reddeb. xx sol. in firma & per totam Angliam vicecomiti servitium faciebat.

Will's Com. hanc t'ram misit ext. firmam & cuidam suo ho'i dedit eam.

In Cirecestre Hund. Will's filius Baderon tenuit ii hid. in Cirecestre & Hugo ten. de eo. In d'nio est una car. & unus vill's & dimid. & iiii bord. cum

F f

i car.

i car. Ibi ii servi. Valuit c solid. modo lxx solid.
Aluui tenuit hanc t'ram.

Thus translated:

King Edward had five hides of land in Cirecestre hundred. There are five plow-tillages in demean, and thirty-one villeins, with ten plow-tillages. There are thirteen *servi*, and ten bordars, and three mills of 30s. some meadow, and two woods of 50s. And there are two free men who have two plow-tillages. The queen had the wool of all the sheep. In the time of king Edward this manor paid three bushels and a half of bread corn and three bushels of barley and six sextaries and a half of honey and 9*l.* 5*s.* and three thousand loaves for the dogs. It now pays 20*l.* 5*s.* and twenty cows and twenty hogs, and 16*s.* in lieu of the loaves, and 20*s.* for the new market, of which St. Mary hath the third penny.

A free man held two hides of land in Cirecestre, and paid 20*s.* for the farm, and did service to the sheriff throughout all England. Earl William put this land out to farm, and gave it to one of his men.

William the son of Baderon held two hides in Cirecestre, and Hugh holds them of him. There is one plow-tillage in demean, and one villein and a half, and four bordars with one plow-tillage. There are two *servi*. It was worth 100*s.* now 70*s.* Aluui held this land.

It

It appears by the charter to the abbey of Cirencester, that king Richard the First granted the jurisdiction of the seven hundreds, with all his lands in Cirencester, to that abbey, which continued to be part of the possessions of the abbey (the hundred of the town excepted) till the dissolution of religious houses.

The hundred of Cirencester, Crother', Brightwaldes-barrowe, Respegate, Bradley, Langtre, and Myntyte, and the seven hundreds of Cirencester, were afterwards granted to sir Thomas Seymour, lord Seymour of Sudley, as it is recited in a subsequent grant of all these particulars to sir Anthony Kingstone, 6 E. 6.

Sir John Danvers died seized of the manor 37 Eliz. and was succeeded by his son Henry Danvers earl of Danby, who built a large house on the spot where earl Bathurst's present house stands, and made the famous physic-garden, for the public use of the university of Oxford. The manor and hundred were afterwards sold to Henry Poole, whose son and heir sir William Poole, in 1645, assigned them, with their appertenancies, and levied a fine thereof to the lady Poole, his mother, (in lieu of dower) for her life; and after her death, to her daughter Anne Poole, and her heirs; which Anne was married to James earl of Newburgh, and previously thereto, and in consideration thereof, she released to him the manor, borough, and town of Cirencester, with their appertenancies and franchises, to the use of him and his heirs.

heirs. Charles was his heir. He married Frances —, who survived him, to whom he left the premises in fee. She sold them in the year 1695, to sir Benjamin Bathurst, great-grandfather of earl Bathurst *, the present proprietor.

The

* According to Mr. Jacob, there is reason to think that the family of Bathurst was of great antiquity in Limburg, in Germany, where its ancestors were seated. The spot of their residence was called Batters, and they, according to the custom of those days, were denominated De Batters; and one or two of them coming into England in the time of the Saxons, gained a settlement in Suffex, which they named Batter's Hurst, *i. e.* Batter's Grove. This appellation was at length contracted to Bathurst; and the wood upon the spot still retains the name of Bathurst Wood. How long the estate had been in the family cannot now be ascertained, but it appears that Lawrence Bathurst, in whose possession it was, became deprived of it in consequence of the dispute between the houses of York and Lancaster. His father Lawrence who had engaged in the cause of Henry the Sixth, had lost his life in the battle of St. Albans in 1461, and his son adhering to the same cause, Edward the Fourth took from him his antient inheritance, and gave it to Battle Abbey, which was in the same neighbourhood. Lawrence Bathurst, however, still retained family estates in Staplehurst, Canterbury and Cranebrook in Kent, and making Cranebrook his chief seat, passed the remainder of his days in tranquility. He left issue three sons, Edward, ancestor to the earl of Bathurst; Robert, of Horsmanden in Kent; and John, who had lands in Staplehurst, by his father's gift.

Edward, the eldest son of Lawrence Bathurst, was seated at Staplehurst, and among other children, had

Launcelot

The other estates in Cirencester, mentioned in domesday-book, have since been divided amongst a variety

Launcelot Bathurst, alderman of London, who, in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, was possessed of the manor of Franks, in the county of Kent. He married Judith, daughter of Richard Randolph, of London, by whom he had issue four sons and three daughters, Randolph, Launcelot, Edward, and George Bathurst; Elizabeth, married to John Brown, esq; Mary, wedded to Edmund Peshall, esq; and Susan, espoused to Robert Owen, esq. From the eldest son, Randolph Bathurst, the family at Franks descended, now extinct in the male line.

George Bathurst, youngest son of the said Launcelot, in the year 1610, married Elizabeth Villiers, daughter and coheir of Edward Villiers, of Howthorp, in com. Northampton, descended from an ancestor of George Villiers duke of Buckingham, and had with her the said manor of Howthorp, where he settled, and had issue twelve sons and four daughters. Several of the sons died in the service of king Charles the First, during the civil war. Those who survived were Ralph, Villiers, Henry, Moses, and sir Benjamin. Ralph was educated at Trinity college in Oxford, for a divine, but during the civil war studied physic, and was employed as a physician in the navy. At the restoration, resuming his former function, he became fellow of the Royal Society, president of Trinity-college, and one of the king's chaplains; and on June 28, 1670, was installed dean of Wells. He died on the 14th of June, 1704, and was buried in the chapel of Trinity-college, which he built at his own expense, and was highly esteemed for his learning.—Villiers Bathurst was judge-advocate of the navy, in the reigns of king Charles the Second, and king William

variety of proprietors. Jeffry de Erchebald, a descendant of the free-man in domesday-book, held an estate

William and queen Mary, and died in the same post in the reign of queen Anne.—Henry was attorney-general of Munster, and recorder of Cork and Kinsale; but he and Moses dying without issue, their estates descended to their younger brother,

Sir Benjamin Bathurst, who, in the reign of king Charles the Second, was elected governor of the Royal African Company, under his Royal Highness James duke of York; also governor of the East India Company, in the years 1688, 1689. He was afterwards treasurer of the household to the princess Anne of Denmark, on the establishment of it, and was appointed cofferer when she acceded to the crown. Sir Benjamin died Aug. 27, 1704, and was buried at Pauler's Pury in Northamptonshire, leaving issue, by Frances his wife, daughter of sir Allen Apsley, of Apsley in Suffex, knight, three sons, Allen, Peter, and Benjamin; and one daughter, Anne, wedded to Henry Pye, of Farringdon in Berkshire, esq.

Allen, the eldest son of sir Benjamin Bathurst, served in parliament for the borough of Cirencester, from the year 1705, 'till queen Anne, in consideration of his own great merit, and the long services of his father, was pleased to advance him to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain, by letters patent dated Dec. 31, 1711. In the year 1742, his lordship was sworn one of the privy council, and the same day appointed captain of the band of gentlemen pensioners, but resigned his office in 1744. In 1757, he was constituted treasurer to his present majesty, then prince of Wales, at whose accession to the throne, he was continued in the list of privy counsellors, but declined accepting of any employment, on account of his great age.

estate in Cirencester 36 H. 3. And William Erchbald was found by the escheator's inquisition to be a free tenant here, 4 H. 4.

The

age. In consideration of his lordship's great merits, his majesty was pleased to advance him to the dignity of an earl, by the title of Earl of Bathurst, of Bathurst in Suffex, by letters patents dated Aug. 12, 1772.

Lord Bathurst's wit, taste, and learning led him to seek the acquaintance of men of genius, and made him intimately connected with bishop Atterbury, doctor Friend, Mr. Congreve, sir John Vanburgh, doctor Swift, Prior, Rowe, Addison, Pope, Gay, doctor Arbuthnot, Sterne, and other men of eminence for learning. His friendships were not confined to particular party or professions. Mr. Parry, a dissenting clergyman of Cirencester, who was a gentleman of considerable learning and taste, and who joined with the decorum of his character a liberality of sentiment and manners, and a sprightly and amiable temper, was honoured with lord Bathurst's particular regard. How well his lordship understood the proper application of a large fortune is happily expressed by Mr. Pope in his epistle to his lordship on the use of riches :

The sense to value riches, with the art
 T' enjoy them, and the virtue to impart
 Not meanly, nor ambitiously pursued,
 Not sunk by sloth, nor raised by servitude;
 To balance fortune by a just expense,
 Join with œconomy magnificence;
 With splendor, charity; with plenty, health;
 Oh teach us, Bathurst! yet unspoiled by wealth!
 That secret rare, between th' extremes to move,
 Of mad good-nature, and of mean self-love.

His

The manor-place, or mansion-house of Archbawld's, which is now the property of Joseph Small, D. D. as lessee under Thomas Master, esq; together with

His lordship preserved, to the close of his life, his natural chearfulness and vivacity, and was always accessible, hospitable and beneficent. Till within a month of his death, he constantly rode out on horseback two hours in the morning, and drank his bottle of wine after dinner. After a few day's illness, his lordship died at his seat at Cirencester, in the year 1775, and in the 91st year of his age. His lordship married Catherine, daughter and heir of sir Peter Apsley, son and heir of sir Allen aforementioned, by whom he had issue four sons and five daughters. Her ladyship died in the year 1768, aged 79, and was buried in a vault in Cirencester church; where his lordship's remains were also deposited; for whom the reader will find appropriate inscriptions in the subsequent account of the church.

Benjamin, their eldest son, born Aug. 12, 1711, married Elizabeth, second daughter to Charles lord Bruce. He was chosen one of the knights of the shire for the county of Gloucester, in the 8th parliament of Great Britain, and was also chosen one of the members for the borough of Cirencester, in the year 1754. He died without issue Jan. 23, 1767; and his lady died Nov. 11, 1771, and both are buried at Siddington St. Peter.—Henry Bathurst, was his lordship's second son, of whom hereafter.—John Bathurst, the third son, died unmarried.—Allen, the fourth son, was fellow of New-college, Oxford, and rector of Beverstone and Saperton in this county. He died unmarried, in the year 1768.—His lordship's five daughters were 1. Frances, married first to William Woodhouse, esq; who died knight of the shire for Norfolk, May 31, 1735;

with the manor, and divers lands, meadows and pastures belonging, passed by grant 13 H. 6. to John Gerveys and Alice his wife; whose son, Robert Gerveys, sold them by the name of his Mannor in Cissetour called Archebolds, to Richard Osmond, 3 H 8. Robert Osmond, son of Richard, had a daughter Mary,

1735; secondly, to James Whitshed, of Hampton Court in Middlesex, esq; several times elected to be one of the representatives of this borough.—2. Catherine, married to Henry-Reginald Courtney, esq; brother to sir William Courtney, bar^t. afterwards created viscount Courtney.—3. Jane, married to John Buller, of Morvall, in Cornwall, esq; and knight in parliament for that county.—4. Leonora, married to colonel Edward Urmstoné, of the first regiment of foot-guards, and a major-general.—And 5. Anne, married to the reverend James Benson, LL. D. late chancellor of the diocese of Gloucester.

Which said Henry Bathurst, his lordship's second son, on the death of his father, succeeded to the title and estate. Applying himself to the study of the law, he soon became eminent in his profession, and was successively appointed solicitor-general and attorney-general to Frederick prince of Wales. On the 2d of May, 1754, he was made a serjeant at law, and one of the justices of the court of common pleas; 'till when, by successive re-elections, he had sat in parliament for the borough of Cirencester from the year 1735. In 1770, he was appointed one of the lords commissioners of the great seal; and his majesty was also pleased to advance him to the dignity of a baron, by the title of baron Apsley on the 22d day of January, 1771; having on the 12th day of the same month, appointed him to the important office of lord high chancellor of Great Britain; which office he discharged with great abilities

Mary, who carried this estate by marriage to Richard Smyth, of Hawford in Warwickshire, yeoman; who with his wife, by their deed dated Jan. 11, 5 Eliz. sold the same to William Childe and John Childe, who conveyed them Feb. 7, 8 Eliz. to William Bavand and the said William Childe. And these two, by their deed dated 11 Feb. in the same year, sold them for 210*l.* to Richard Master, of London, esq; from whom they have descended to Thomas Master, of the abbey-house in Cirencester; the present owner.

ties and honour. His lordship married, first, Anne, daughter and heir of — James, esq. This lady dying without issue, he wedded, secondly, Tryphena, daughter of Thomas Scawen, of Maidwell, in Northamptonshire, by whom he had issue two sons, *viz.* Henry, commonly called lord Apsley, and Apsley; and four daughters, *viz.* the ladies Tryphena, Catherine, Selina, and Susanna. His lordship died in the year 1794, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

Henry the present earl Bathurst. When his lordship came of age, he was chosen one of the representatives of the borough of Cirencester, on Mr. Whitshed's vacating his seat in parliament in the year 1783, and has been seven times re-chosen on various occasions as may be seen in our list of the representatives. His lordship wedded Georgina one of the daughters of lord George-Henry Lennox, brother to his grace the duke of Richmond, by whom he has issue three sons, *viz.* Henry-George, William-Lennox, and Seymour-Thomas; and two daughters, Georgina-Louisa, and Emily-Charlotte, all minors.

His lordship's arms are, *Sable, two bars ermine, in chief three crosses pattee Or.* CREST. *On a wreath, a dexter arm in mail embowed, holding a club with spikes, all proper.* SUPPORTERS. *Two stags argent, each gorged with a collar gemel ermine.* MOTTO. TIEN TA FOY.

Tithings

Tithings and Hamlets.

THERE are five tithings in the parish, all lying in the Out-torne and Minety, vulgarly written Crowthorne and Minety, *viz.*

1. Spital-gate, corruptly called Spiring-gate tithing.
2. Wiggold.
3. Chesterton.
4. Barton.
5. Oakley.

1. Spital-gate tithing. The abbey of Cirencester had its *hospitium*, for the entertainment of strangers, and the entrance on that side of the abbey was at a large gate-way, with a circular arch, called Spital-gate. The gate-way is now standing, with one of the large abbey barns near it. And this gate gave denomination to the tithing and the adjoining farm. There are other lands in this tithing which belonged to the abbey, called the *Almery-farm*, from the *Almery* of the abbey to which the farm belonged. The *almery-gate* is still standing, and these are all the buildings which at this time remain of the antient abbey. Both these farms were granted to Richard Master, 6 Eliz. and are now the property of Thomas Master, esq; lineally descended from the first proprietor of that name.

2. Wiggold. This tithing lies on the north-east of the town, beyond the forementioned tithing. There was a chapel here subservient to Cirencester. Cart.

17 Ed. 3. John Bisset, chief forester of England, died seized of Wiggold 25 H. 3. His wife Alice survived him, and held Wiggold in dower. After her death, the manor descended to his four daughters; Margaret, married to Richard de Rivers; Ela, Isabel, and Edith; which last was called Edith lady of Wiggold. Roger Normand purchased a charter of free-warren in this manor 9 E. 3, which was confirmed 15 R. 2. William Boys and others held lands in Wiggold and Cirencester 32 E. 3. Sir William Nottingham was seized of this manor 1 R. 3, and William Pole and Anne his wife levied a fine of it to George Prater 3 E. 6. Mr. Talbot and Mr. Townsend succeeded them, but Joseph Cripps, esq; by purchase, is the present owner of this manor and estate. The tithes of Wiggold, belonging formerly to the abbey of Cirencester, were granted to Thomas Erskyn, viscount Fenton, 5 Jac. but Thomas Master, esq; is the present impropriator. The tithe of hay, and all privy tithes, belong to the minister of the parish.

3. Chesterton, situated on the south and south-east of the town. The name is from the Saxon *Ceastre*, and that from the Latin *Castrum*. The Roman antiquities mentioned to be in the Leauses are in this tithing, of which already, under the First Part. Earl Bathurst is the impropriator of this tithing by purchase of sir John Nelthrop. Tithe of hay and privy tithes belong to the vicar. Earl Bathurst, Thomas Master, esq; and Robert Sandford, esq; have considerable estates in this tithing.

4. Barton-

4. Barton-tithing includes a large tract of land on the west side of the town, besides Barton-farm. This farm belonged to the abbey, and was granted to Richard Berners 36 H. 8. It was vested in sir Richard Onslow, speaker of the house of commons during part of queen Anne's reign, who sold it to Allen the first lord Bathurst, from whom it descended to the present earl Bathurst, whose deer-park lies in this tithing.

5. Oakley-tithing lies north westward of the town. Of this, Domesday gives the following account.

Isd. Rog. [Roger de Laci] ten. ACHELIE. Ibi i hida & dimid. Leuvinus tenuit, modo ten. Giraldus de Rog. In d'nio sunt ii car. & ii vill'i cum p'bro h'ntes ii car. & dimid. Ibi viii servi. Valuit iiiii lib. modo iii lib.

In Cirecestre Hund. Gislebertus filius Tuoldi ten. in ACHELIE i hid. de rege et Osulfus de eo. Kene-ward tenuit T. R. E. In d'nio sunt ii car. et iii bord. et vi servi. Valuit xl solid. modo xxx solid.

In Cirecestre Hund. Tursten fil. Rolfi ten. in Achelie unam hid. Brictric tenuit pro manerio de rege E. In d'nio est una car. & iii vill'i cum iii car. Ibi vi servi & iiiii ac. p'ti. Val. & valuit l sol. Girvius ten. de Turstino.

Thus englished:

Roger de Laci holds Achelie. There is one hide and a half. Leuvinus held it, now Girald holds it of Roger. There are two plow-tillages in demean, and
two

two villeins, with a priest, having two plow-tillages and a half. There are nine *servi*. It was worth 4*l*. now 3*l*.

Gislebert the son of Turoid holds one hide in Achelie of the king, and Oulf holds it of him. Keneward held it in the time of king Edward. There are two plow-tillages in demean, and three bordars, and six *servi*. It was worth 40*s*. now [only] 30*s*.

Turstin the son of Rolf holds one hide in Achelie. Brietric held it for a manor of king Edward. There is one plow-tillage in demean, and three villeins with three plow-tillages. There are six *servi*, and four acres of meadow. It was worth and is now worth 50*s*. Girvius holds it of Turstin.

This estate was part of the possessions of the abbey, 'till that house was dissolved. Oakley-woods were granted 2 Eliz. to sir Thomas Parry, from whom they descended to his son, and they were sold by his family to sir John Danvers. They were afterwards purchased by sir Henry Poole, whose son sir William Poole sold them to sir Robert Atkyns of Saperton, of whom they were bought by Allen first lord Bathurst, from whom they descended to his grandson Henry earl Bathurst, the present proprietor of the woods and of the whole tithing.

We have already attempted a description of these woods, the wood-house, and beautifully sequestered lawns, as appendages to the pleasure-walks of the deer-park, to which the reader is referred.

In

In the tithings of Chesterton and Barton, the farmers have been long in the very lucrative practice of watering their meadows by art, and from a desire of making this publication of as much real utility as possible, we shall subjoin an account of the method of doing it.

We know the practice is growing into use, but it can't be too generally known.

A short Account of the Method of Watering Meadows.

BEFORE we proceed to the method, three things must be considered. Will the stream of water intended for this purpose admit of a temporary wear or dam across it? Can the water be dammed up a few inches higher than the meadow to be watered, without injuring the neighbouring lands? And can the water be drawn off the meadow as quick as brought on? If free from all objections on these accounts, proceed in the following manner.

Having taken an accurate level of the ground, and compared it with that of the river, as near as may be at the dam, cut a deep wide ditch, to convey the water directly to the highest part of the meadow, keeping the sides or banks of the ditch (which we shall call the work) of an equal height, and about three inches higher than the general surface of the meadow. In
a large

a large meadow, with an uneven surface, sometimes three works are necessary in different directions, each five feet wide, if the meadow contains fifteen acres, and if the highest part of it be the farthest from the stream. In general, a ditch or work of ten feet wide, and three deep, will water ten acres of land. When there are three works in a meadow, and flood-hatches at the mouth of each, and the water is not sufficient to afford a compleat covering for the whole at once, the meadow may be watered at three different times, by taking out one of the hatches, and keeping the others in. In this case, when the water has run over one division of the land for ten days, it may be taken off that, and turned over another, by taking up another hatch, and letting down the first; and thus the three divisions may enjoy the water alternately, and each reap equal benefit. The bottom of the first work, or master-feeder, ought to be as deep as the bottom of the river, when the fall in the meadow will admit of it; for the deeper you draw the water, the more mud it carries along with it.

From the works, or master-feeder, cut smaller ditches or troughs at right angles, of breadths proportioned to the distance to which some part of the water is to be carried, and their distance from each other to be about twelve yards. A trough of two feet wide, and one deep, will water a surface of twelve yards wide, and forty long. In each trough, as well as in the master-feeder, place frequent stops or obstructions, especially when the water is rapid, to keep
it

it high enough to flow through some notches to be cut in their banks, or to run over their sides, at convenient distances, for the whole length of such troughs. The width of each work or feeder, as well as of the trough, is to be gradually contracted, as the quantity of water is continually decreasing the farther it runs. Between every two troughs, cut a drain parallel to them, and as deep as you please, and wide enough to receive all the water that runs over the two adjoining beds, or plots of ground on each side, and to carry it off into the master-drain, with such curren- cy as to keep the whole sheet of water in constant motion; and, if possible, not to suffer a drop to stagnate upon the whole meadow. A stagnation rots the turf, soaks into and starves the land, and produces coarse grass and aquatic weeds.

When a meadow lies cold, flat, and swampy, the width of the bed, by which is meant the distance between the trough and drain, ought to be very small, never exceeding six yards; indeed in this case, the land can scarcely be cut too much, provided water is plentiful, for the more cuts the more water is required. The fall of the bed in every meadow, should be half an inch in a foot; less will do, but more is desirable; for when the draught is quick, the herbage is always fine and sweet. The water ought never to flow more than two inches deep, nor less than an inch, except in the warm months.

Sometimes it is necessary, in a large meadow, to convey the water that has been used under the works

H h and

and troughs, and then the water above is supported by means of boards and planks, which we call a *carry-bridge*. Sometimes, the better to regulate the course of the water on the surface, especially in the spring, narrow trenches are dug, and the mould and turf laid by the side of them, in order to be restored to their former place when watering is finished for the season. The earth and mud thrown out, in cleansing and paring the ditches, should be carried to fill up the low, hollow parts of the meadow, and trodden down to an even surface, which may easily be done with the water on, the workman being always provided with a strong pair of water-proof boots. If the mould thus used has a good turf on it, place it uppermost, but if coarse and sedgey, turn it under, and the water, if it runs quick, will soon produce a fine herbage.

The grounds most easily and most effectually watered, are such as have been plowed, and ridged up in lands, about twelve yards wide. The water is easily carried along the ridge by means of a small ditch or trough cut along its summit; and then by means of the stops, it is made to run down the sides or beds into the furrows, and carried into the master-drain, which empties itself into the river. Every meadow, before it is well watered, must be brought into a form something resembling a ridged field of arable land.

The structure of flood-hatches is so simple, and so well understood by a common carpenter, that it may be deemed unnecessary to describe them. One hint shall

shall suffice. Let their basis be deep, and firmly fixed and secured with stone and clay, to prevent their being blown up by the force of the water.

The water should be let in upon the meadow in November, when the first great rains make the river muddy; for then it is full of a rich sediment. brought down from circumjacent lands; and washed into it by the rain; and as the sediment brought by the first floods is the richest, the carriages and drains of the meadow should all be scoured clean, and put in order, before these floods come.

In December and January, be careful to keep the land sheltered by the water from the severity of frosty nights. But it is necessary, through the winter, every ten days or fortnight, to give the land air for a few days, by taking the water entirely off, otherwise it would rot the roots of the grass. And every meadow should be surveyed twice a week to see that the water is equally distributed, and to remove hurtful obstructions from sticks and weeds.

In February, much caution is necessary. If the water remain on the meadow for many days without intermission, it will generate a white scum, very destructive to the grass. On the other hand, if it be taken off, and the land exposed to a severe frosty night, without being previously dried for a whole day, it will cut off much of the tender grass. To avoid these injuries, take the water off by day, to prevent the scum; and turn it over at night, to guard against the frost; or both may be avoided, by taking the water

off entirely for a few days and nights, provided the day on which it is taken off be dry; for after one fine drying day, a frost at night will do the grass little or no injury. Towards the middle of this month, use only about half as much water as in the winter. Rather *wet* than *water*; for at this season, it is only necessary to keep the land in a warm humid state, to force vegetation.

At the beginning of March, there is generally on such meadows abundant pasturage for all kinds of stock. But the water should be taken off for nearly a week before heavy cattle are turned on, and if the season be cold, 'tis proper, during the first week, to give the stock a little hay at night.

Some persons eat off the spring-feed with ewes and lambs, by inclosing them with flakes or hurdles in a certain portion of it every day, giving hay at the same time. This is certainly making the most of the grass, and an excellent method to fine and sweeten the future herbage. In March and April, the grass may be eaten as short and close as possible, but never later. If the month of May be trespassed on for only a week, it will very materially impair the hay-crop; the grass will be soft and woolly, like latter-math.

When spring-feeding is finished, the water is again necessary for a few days, by way of wetting.

It is remarkable, that watering in autumn, winter and spring, will not occasion the rot-in sheep; but has been known to remove the cause from meadows which had rotted. But if the water be used, tho' only
for

for a few days, in any of the summer months, the pasturage will be unsafe for sheep. Take one instance. At the beginning of July, the hay being off, and the river very muddy from abundant rain, the water was thrown over a meadow for ten days. In about a month, the ground was covered with an uncommon luxuriancy of herbage, into which eight sound young ewes, and two lambs, were turned to depasture. The lambs were killed six weeks afterwards, and had symptoms of rottenness; and in about a month or six weeks more, the ewes were also killed, and tho' they were very fat, their livers were putrid, and replete with the insect called the Fluke, or Weevil. This experiment ascertains the event, and at the same time proves, that muddy water in the summer is much richer than in autumn or winter; and may be very advantageously used, for a week at least every wet summer, notwithstanding this inconvenience as to sheep.

All objections to watering meadows after this method, such as cutting the ground, laying out a meadow, and other expenses; that hay thus produced is inferior to up-land hay, &c. are abundantly countervailed by the advantages. The coarseness of the hay is obviated by cutting early, when it will be excellent. But those who are covetous of having nearly three tons to the acre, must be content with long, coarse hay.

The advantages are, the land and herbage are continually improving, without manure; the crop is not
only

only *full* and *certain*, but 'tis also *early*. And who is not sensible of the astonishing effects of early grass on all sorts of cattle, but particularly sheep and lambs? With these advantages, it is surprising that the practice has not long since become general throughout the kingdom. In this neighbourhood the most insignificant spring or rivulet is not suffered to pass unstrained; and wherever a sudden shower usually occasions a temporary flood, proper ditches are made to receive the water, and to spread it equally over the land; but there is no stream or river on which a mill is or can be erected, but what may be made very enriching to a certain quantity, if not to a large tract of land.

This extract is taken from the Rev. Mr. Wright's second edition of *Advantages and Method of Watering Meadows by Art*, with the author's approbation; who, from the most disinterested principles has, upon application, sent experienced men from South Cerney, about four miles hence, to lay out meadows in distant countries, by whom the business is done more effectually than it can be learnt from books. They commonly charge a guinea a week. One of those people is now employed in Scotland by their truly patriotic agricultural society.



METHOD OF WATERING MEADOWS. 245

Since the foregoing exact was printed, it occurred to us, that the following may be useful.

To make a wear or dam across a river, as in plates II. and III. Take two pieces of any rough timber, long enough to reach across the river, and cut a deep groove in one of them from one end to the other. Lay this across the bottom of the river under water, with the groove uppermost. Lay the other piece across above the water, so that its side next the approaching current may be exactly over the groove in the lower piece, and let each beam be firmly fixed in the bank on each side of the river. Drive stakes, with one end previously fitted, into the said groove, and nail the other end of the stakes to the upper beam; then fix rough boards or other materials to the stakes so close together as to stop the water, and the dam is finished.

If the highest part of the land to be floated be distant from the river, the sides of the ditch or work which introduces the water should be raised for the whole distance, very gradually descending from the beginning, to carry the water to the highest part of the land. If the distance be a hundred yards, and the fall four inches, then give one inch fall to each twenty yards.

Place the earth thrown out in digging the floating gutters, (mark'd F. G. in Plate I.) on each side of them, so as to make a regular descent over the beds, and to constitute a ridge as in plate I. figure 2. Use as little descent as you well can in the gutters, reserving the greater part for the sides of the ridge, for 'tis more necessary that the water should flow quickly over the beds than in the gutters, tho' in them it should never stagnate.

In cutting the works, if any low part or ditch obstruct the progress, carry the water over it, by making a continuation of the feeder or gutter with a few boards nailed together. And if a road, or small eminence obstruct, the water may be conveyed underneath, by a trunk of four boards nailed together, or a hollow tree, leaving a passage sufficient for a free current.

The

The Plates explained.

PLATE I. represents a meadow regular in its surface, with the current of the river, but too high to be floated from the part of the stream immediately opposite to it. In order, therefore, to gain a fall, the water is taken out at a higher part of the stream by a conductor, as at C, into the feeder, which is cut along the highest part of the meadow, and has a flood hatch in the mouth of it, to admit or exclude the water at pleasure. This conductor we will suppose, for the sake of illustration, has only four inches descent in its whole length, but the stream in the same length falls ten inches, therefore six inches of power are gained by means of the conductor, which is a fall abundantly sufficient, for floating the meadow. By this mode of gaining descent, thousands of acres may be floated, which some would think impossible to be done.

Figure 1. and 2. represent a transverse section of two ridges with their sides or beds an inclined plane. See. P. 240. The floating gutters or troughs, as we sometimes call them, (marked F. G.) are drawn with double lines, and the stops in these and the feeder are marked with small circles and the letter S. The drain cuts are made with single lines.

PLATE II. represents a floated meadow which had three parts considerably higher than the general surface of the land. In order to throw the water over the higher parts, it was necessary that each should be accommodated with a separate feeder, as shewn in F1. F2. F3. with its stops, gutters, notches, and drains. In this meadow the floating may be alternate thro' the winter. See p. 238.

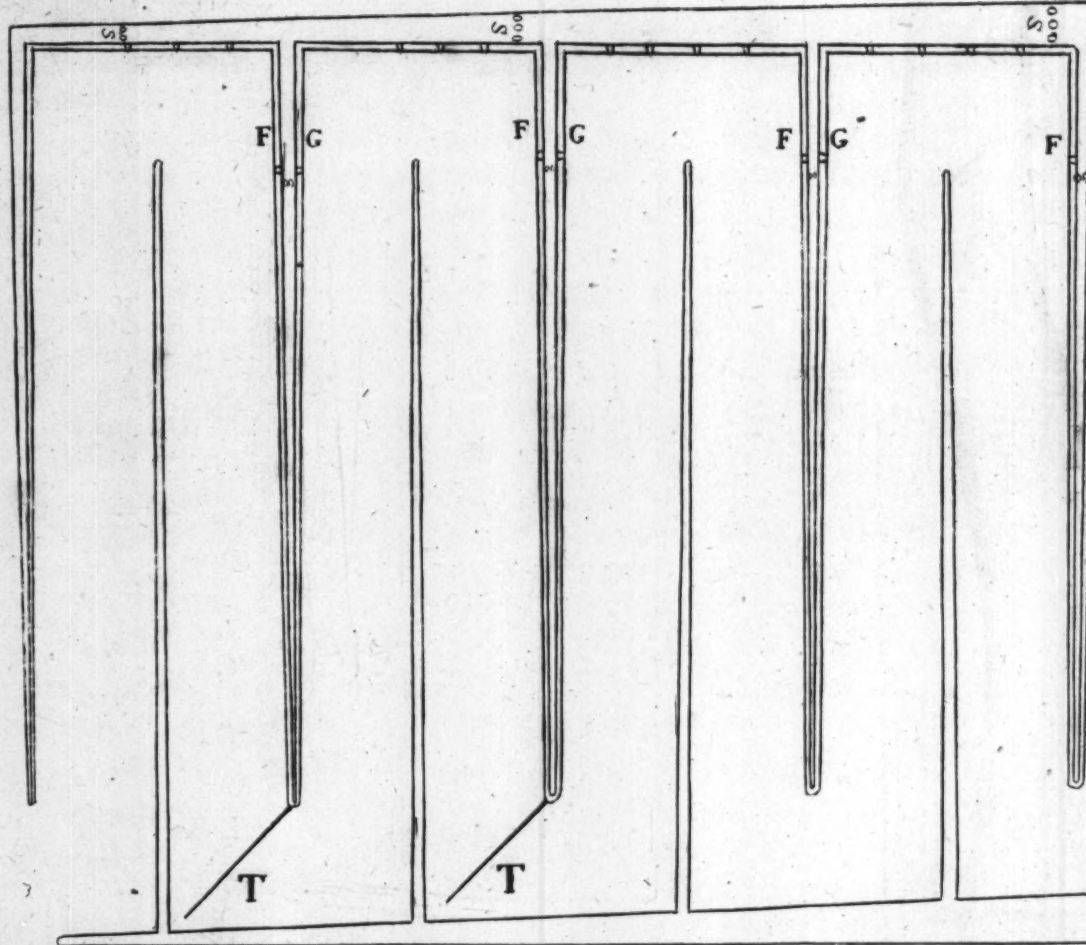
PLATE III. represents a sort of floating commonly called catch-work, where the ditches are made at a distance below each other *across* the declivity, to catch the water, again and again, from the top to the bottom of the meadow. It is evident that the upper beds must receive more than their share of the nutriment that is deposited. This method should never be used but where the declivity is too great to admit the floating gutters to point down the descent, as in the other method.

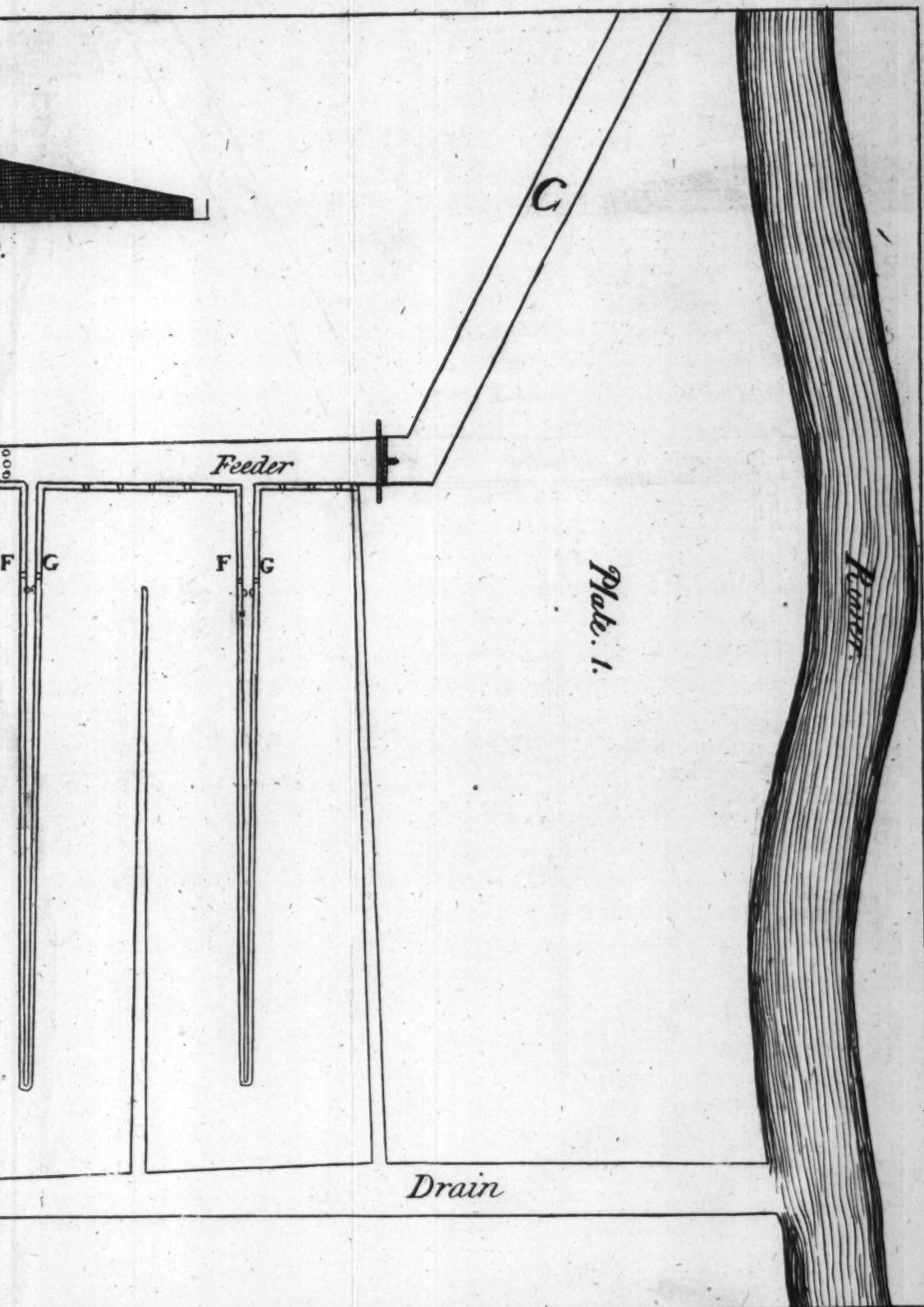
CHAP.

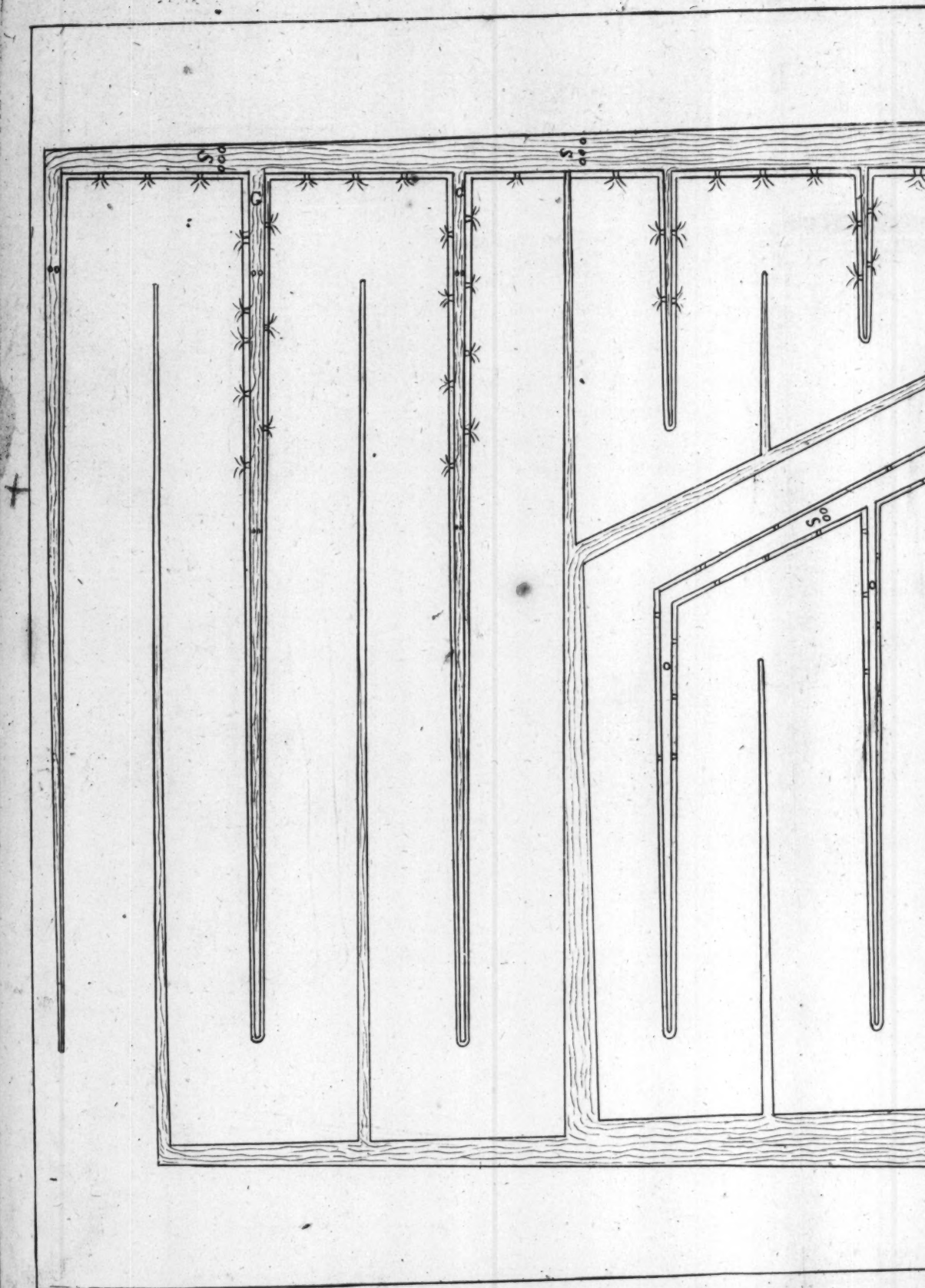


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.







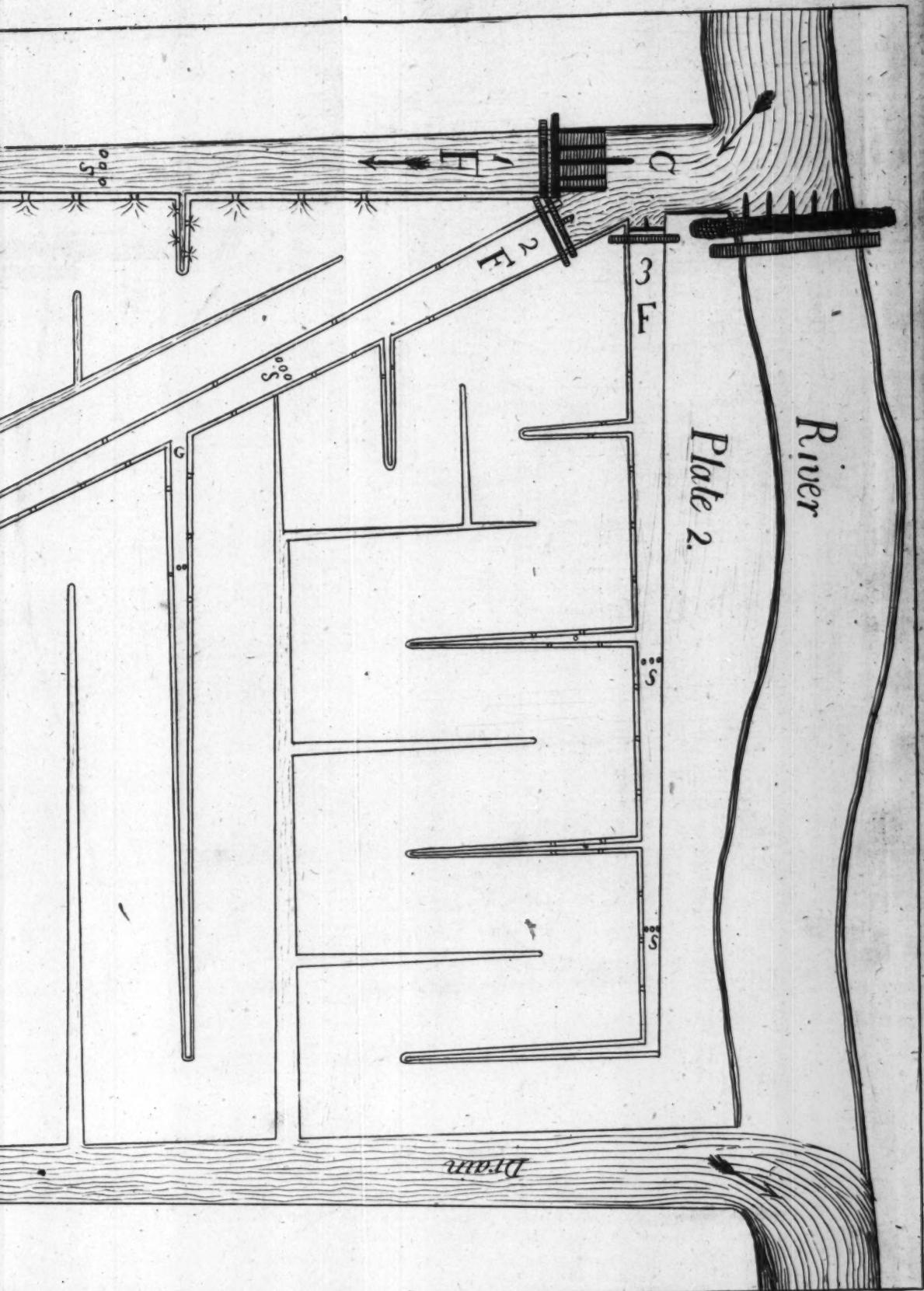
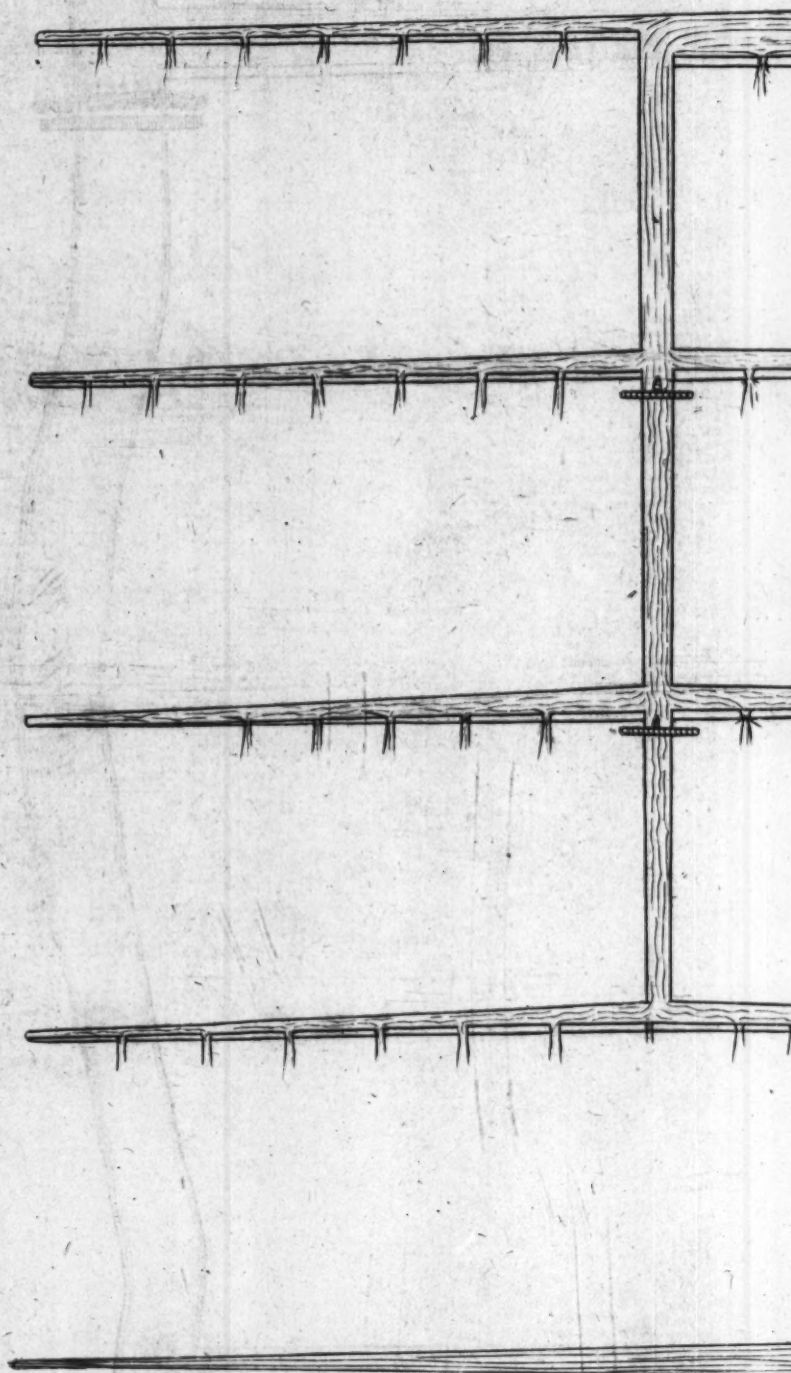
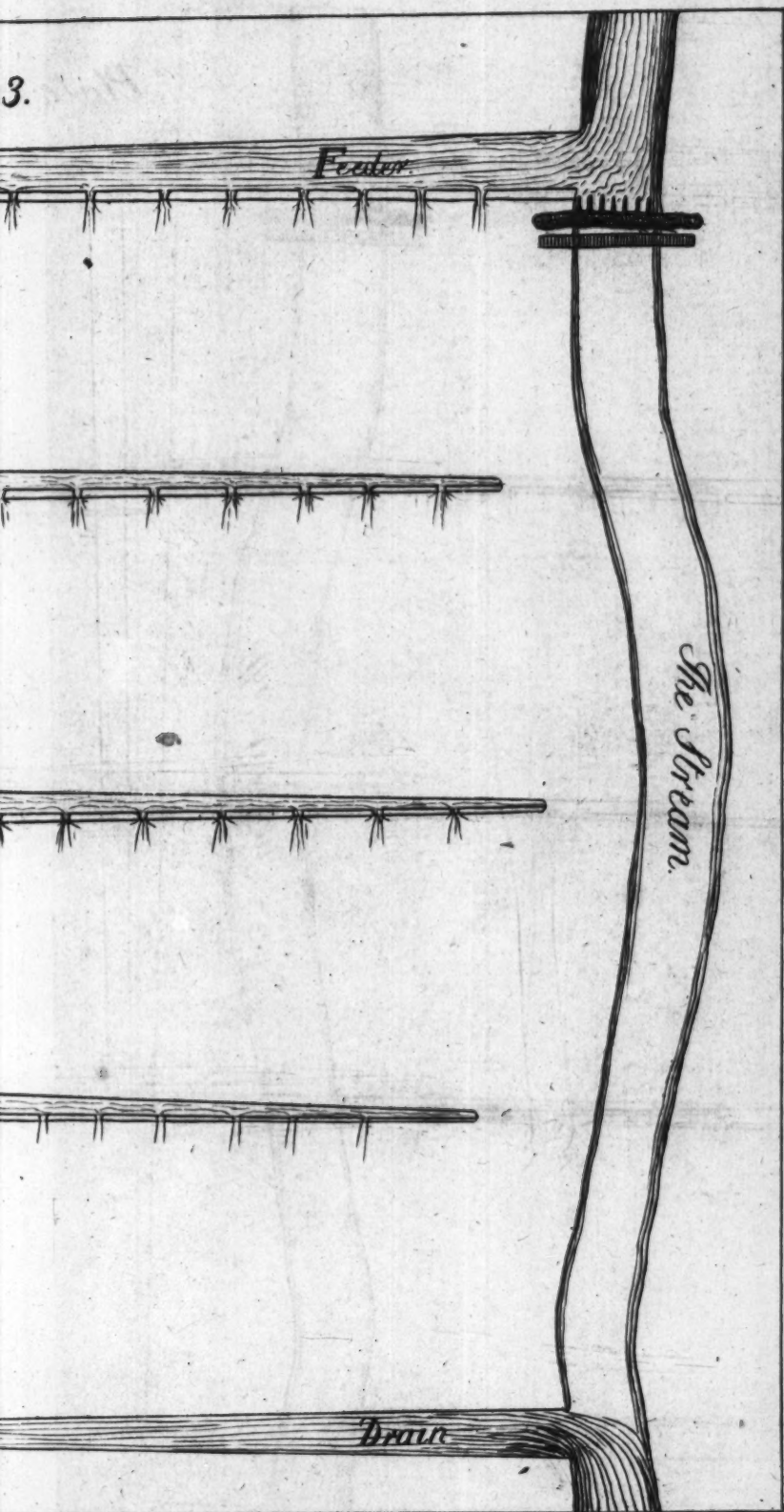
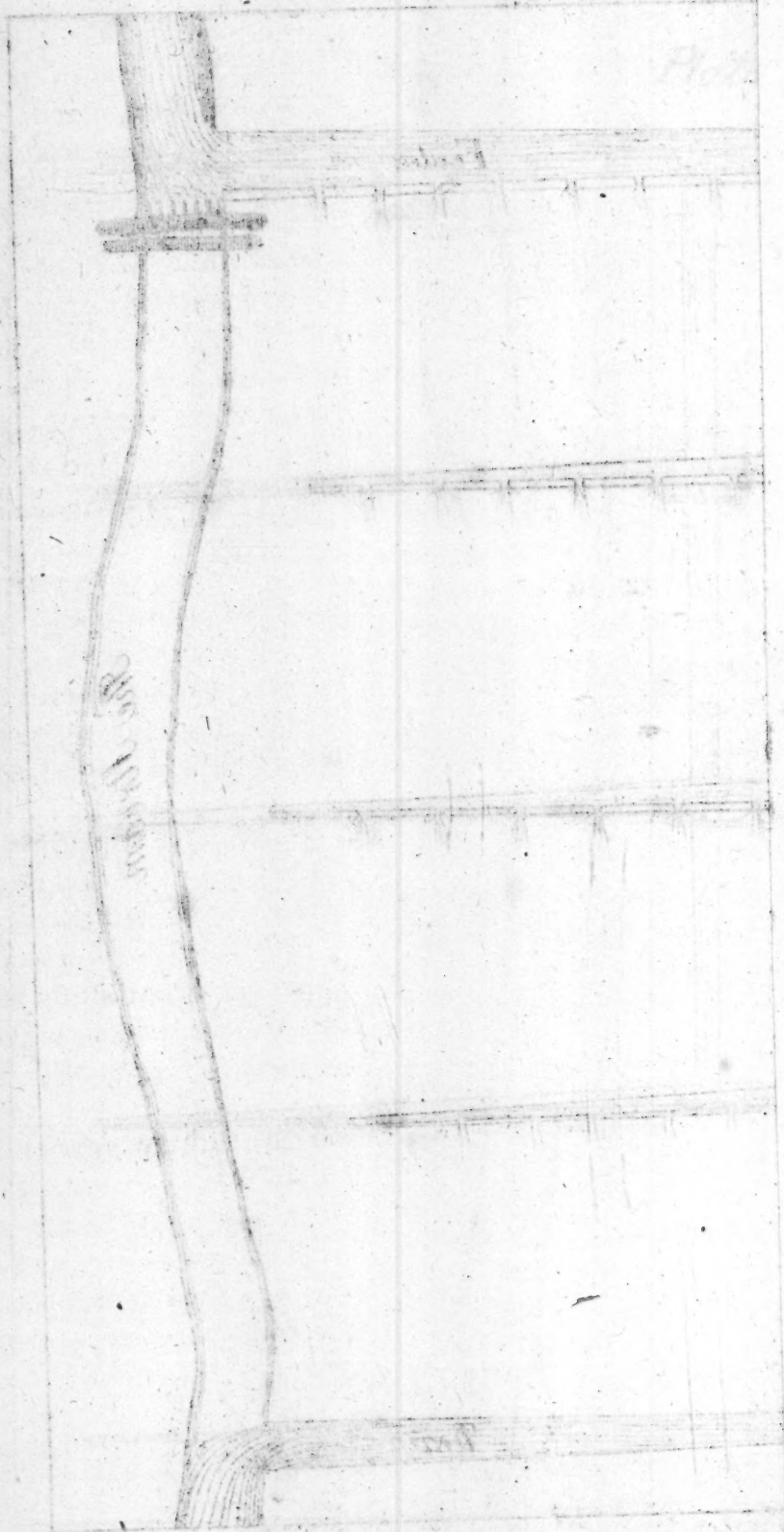


Plate 3



3.





CHAP. VI.

Of the Church.

THE church is a vicarage, in the deanery of Cirencester. The bishop of the diocese is patron. With various augmentations and perquisites it is now worth about 200*l.* a year. The particulars of the several donations to it stand under the head Benefactions. The rectory of Cirencester, and the advowson of the vicarage, were granted to sir Thomas Tresham and George Tresham 5 E. 6. William Bouchier of Barnsley died seized of the rectory in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, and livery of it was granted to his son Thomas the same year. A portion of tithes called Archebald's, formerly belonging to the abbey of Cirencester, were granted to Francis Philips and Richard Moor 6 Jac. And it has been already shown who are the present impropiators, under the tithings of Chesterton and Wiggold.

There have been three parish churches here, of which one was dedicated to St. Cecilia, and intirely demolished in Leland's time. Another to St. Lawrence, and it now stands on the east side of the street of that name, but has been long since converted into
small

small tenements. It is an antient structure, of which the roof is supported by pillars, half buried under ground, by raising the floor to the level of the street. This, with the college of houses adjoining, is called the *Pean*, but what the name signifies, we cannot so much as conjecture.

The third is the present parish church. This church is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. It is a magnificent and sumptuous building, consisting of the nave, two large ailes, five chapels, a large wainscotted chancel, formerly fitted up with stalls, which are now removed, and three handsome galleries. It has a lofty and well-proportioned pinnacled and embattled tower of Gothic architecture, with a peal of twelve bells and a clock, at the west end; and the south porch is a beautiful Gothic structure, fronting the market-place. See the annexed plate.

The roof of the church is supported by two rows of handsome clustered pillars, of which there are five and two pilasters in each row. And immediately over them are cherubic figures, with the scutcheons, arms, initials, and devices of the several benefactors to the building. These ornaments are continually filling up and suffering injury from white-washing. This is the case not only here, but in most churches, to prevent which the church-wardens should be particularly attentive.

On the north side within the nave, are the following arms and devices: 1. A cross encircled.—2. A cross engrailed between four martlets. On a chief quarterly

quarterly two roses stalked, impaled with the see of Durham, for Thomas Rowthale*, bishop of Durham, who was a native of Cirencester.

3. On a chevron three rams heads caboshed, the arms of the abbey of Cirencester.

4. Quarterly, 1st and 4th, a lion rampant between three helmets; 2d and 3d, a chevron within a bordure charged with roundlets, for Thomas Compton, who was abbat in 1478.

5. A device with the initials R. R. Robert Rowthale.

6. A device with the initials H. G. Hugh Garstang.

Returning from the west end, over the pillars on the south side, are

* This prelate preceded cardinal Wolsey in the see of Durham, in the reign of king H. 8. He was in great favour with that monarch, who ordered him to draw up an account of the royal revenues, which he accordingly did, and at the same time took an estimate of his own riches. The papers were bound up separately in vellum, and laid together; but unfortunately for him, when Henry sent cardinal Wolsey for the royal estimate, the servant who was to fetch the book, by mistake delivered the bishop's; and the cardinal, tho' he was apprized of the mistake, being jealous of the prelate, presented it to the king, telling him it would inform him where to apply when he wanted money; for the bishop was one of the richest subjects in the kingdom, it appearing by this account that he was worth One hundred thousand pounds, a vast sum for a private person to possess at that time. When the bishop discovered the error which his servant had committed, it had so great an effect upon him, as to throw him into a disorder which put a period to his life. *Noble's Dissertations on the Mint of the Episcopal Palatine of Durham.*

1. Three greyhounds courant in pale.
2. A cross patonce with I. P. for John Pratt, a chantry priest.
3. A lion and wivern combatant.
4. A crozier ensigned with a mitre I. H. for John Hakeborne, who was confirmed abbat in 1504.
5. A cross between four lions rampant.

A phenix in flames (said to be the arms of the town) is over one of the pillars, with various other devices, particularly a crown of thorns and instruments of crucifixion, arranged over the arches. There are, besides these, many other armorial bearings and personal distinctions over the pillars on the sides next the north and south ailes, all placed with the same design, to commemorate the charity of those who contributed to the rebuilding of this part of the church: a work which seems to have been in contemplation a considerable time before it was carried into execution. We have not found any memorandum when it was done, yet we think it may be limited between the years 1504 and 1522, which was the duration of abbat Hakebourne's government, whose initials with the crozier and mitre mark him for a benefactor.

Leland says, *Ther is nowe but one Paroch Chirch in al Cirecester; but that is very fayre. The body of the Chirch is all new worke, to which Ruthall Bishop of Durham, borne and brought up yn Cirecestre, promised much, but preventid with deth gave nothing.* Itin. v. 2d. We have a great opinion of Leland's accuracy, but as to this particular he may have been misinformed; for the

the arms of bishop Ruthall placed among those of the benefactors to the church, is a strong presumptive proof of his having contributed to the rebuilding of it.

We apprehend that all the windows were curiously painted, but having suffered much by casual accidents and bungling workmen, the greater part of the painted glass was lately taken out of them, and placed at a considerable expence to ornament a beautiful and well proportioned window at the west end in the tower. Having taken some memorandums before the figures were removed, it will be proper to describe them as they originally stood.

The windows on the south side were best preserved, and the great one on the right as you enter the church was most entire. It consisted of three ranges of figures of four compartments each. The principal figures in the uppermost were three of the antient fathers of the christian church, and pope Gregory the Tenth, in the following order, 1st *St. Augustine*, 2d *St. Jerom*, 3d the pope, 4th *St. Ambrose*. The names of the fathers were written beneath the respective figures, but the pope was distinguished only by his tiara, or triple crown. Under *St. Augustine*, in the same compartment, was a figure kneeling, with a writing on a scroll round his head, *Sc's Augustinus ora pro nobis*, [not *Sc'e Augustine* ;] and the name of this votary, *Willm' Hampton*, stood at the foot, to denote that he was the donor of that light, or compartment, of the window. There were also figures at the feet of the

others, with their names upon scrolls thus written, *Iohes Hampton & ux. ei'.*—*Willm' Okyn & Iohana ux. eiusd.*—*Will. Colsburn Bower & Alicia Iohana.*—These may be presumed to have given the respective compartments in which they were placed. The principal figures in the second range were, 1st *St. Catherine*, 2d *St. Margaret*, 3d *St. Dorothy*, 4th defaced, distinguished by their names in writing. These had all scrolls round them, with portions of scripture in Latin; and the donor of each compartment, with his name, was placed, as already described, under the principal figure. We come now to the lower range, where were the following. 1st *Sc's de Beu'laco*, 2d *Ioh'es de Beu'laco*, 3d *Will. Eberaco*, 4th *Osmund de Sarr.* with scrolls bearing passages of scripture round them. In the smaller lights at the top, were various figures and representations, 1st of the Trinity, in a triangular form, as commonly expressed. 2d of the virgin mother. 3d On an escutcheon argent, an escallop gules, impaling azure, a chevron gules, for Prelatte. 4th A device with P. G. and the arms, Azure, three mascles Or, a chief argent within a bordure engrailed gules, for Garstang. It is said that this window exhibited figures in the habits of every order in the Romish church.

In the window on the other side of the south door, the compartments were ornamented in a similar manner with the figures of persons canonized in the Roman calendar, and those of the benefactors to the light wherein they stood, with the names of the latter; viz.

Ioh'es

Ioh'es Rowthale M'garet & Alic' ux. in one compartment; *Iohanes Langele* in another; and *Iohana Whyt* in a third, with a scroll round the head, on which was written *Sc'a Batildis ora pro nobis*, which discovers the name of the saint standing above; but who the others were is uncertain.

The other windows on the same side of the church were decorated in like manner, with canonized saints, and portions of scripture in Latin, written on scrolls round their heads, and smaller figures of their votaries praying with up-lifted hands beneath; but they were so mutilated that no certain particulars can be given of them.

The most perfect of all these figures have been lately taken down, as before observed, from their original situations, and joined together, to decorate a large and well proportioned window at the west end, together with such other parts from the windows in the north side of the church as were thought to answer the design. They are certainly well disposed, and form a very beautiful group, with a greater appearance of symmetry and order than could have been expected from such detached subjects, and the work has been very much admired. The mind is not apt to contemplate objects which have been long familiarised to the senses. These figures have the sanction of antiquity, and have obtained a kind of reverence from being associated with a place of worship, where they were placed when popery was the prevailing religion of the country: But a person with a scrupulous regard
to

to externals and appearances, may possibly think that there is a kind of incongruity in placing up anew, in a protestant church, the figures of a pope, a cardinal, and votaries praying to popish saints. We are confident, however, that no ill effects from them can be reasonably apprehended.

The Organ.

BETWEEN the choir and the body of the church is a gallery or screen-work, upon which an organ was erected in the year 1683. After great expenses in repairing and enlarging it, at various times, it was taken down, about seven years since, and a new one, built by Mr. Green of Chelsea, with all the stops usually found in the best instruments of this kind, was placed in its stead. It is seldom used but on Sundays, the salary for the organist being inadequate to constant attendance, for here are prayers every day in the week, and many occasional sermons. And perhaps the truly devout part of the congregation would gladly excuse a more sparing use of it.

The organ is said to have been introduced into churches about a thousand years ago, in one of the darkest ages of christianity, under the notion of raising or assisting devotion; but it is much to be questioned whether it is capable of any such effect. There can be no devotion without the exercise of the understanding,

ing, and that can be employed only about precise ideas, which musical sounds without words are incapable of exciting. A religious frame is that of seriousness and gravity, as totally different from melancholy on one hand, as repugnant to the airy modulations of the voluntary, and the unnatural fugues of the anthem, on the other. In all cases where art is to assist nature, her manner should be natural, otherwise she will be no assistant, but a disturber; not a friend, but an enemy. There is much truth in the following observation made on church-musicians by one of our best English writers. " They have introduced in their farewell voluntaries, a sort of music quite foreign to the design of church-services, to the great prejudice of well-disposed people. These fingering gentlemen should be informed, that they ought to suit their airs to the place and business; and that the musician is obliged to keep to the text as much as the preacher. For want of this I have found by experience a great deal of mischief: for when the preacher has often, with great piety and art enough, handled his subject, and the judicious clerk has with much diligence culled out two staves proper to the discourse, and I have found in myself and in the rest of the pew good thoughts and dispositions, they have been all in a moment dissipated by a merry jig from the organ-loft *." This airy mode of playing was gradually introduced by

* Spectator, N^o. 338.

accomplished

accomplished performers to shew their skill, and catch the applause of the audience, which might have been well earned and deservedly bestowed at a concert. It grew by degrees more and more into use like some other externals; and nothing perhaps but long continued habit prevents people from seeing the impropriety of it. But we must not dismiss this subject, without some apology.—Will these sentiments displease the lovers of music, the gay and young? That was never intended.—Shall we be considered as having irreverently touched the things belonging to another order? Not *irreverently*, since we plead for *more* reverence, *more* solemnity, and *more* order. So far pretty well answered perhaps; but there is still a charge to which we are confessedly liable. We have touched on a subject which may suffer from our pen; however, we submit our opinions to fair examination, and if reason disapprove, we have no wish to have them adopted.

The Chapels, Tower, &c.

HERE are five chapels, *viz.* 1. Jesus' chapel. 2. St. John's. 3. St. Catherine's. 4. St. Mary's. 5. Trinity chapel. Of which in their order. *Note,* The monuments and inscriptions in them, together with those in the chancel, and in the body of the church, will be found under the head of *Monuments and Inscriptions*, towards the close of this chapter.

1. *Jesus'*

1. *Jefus' chapel*, at the east end of the south aisle. It is very small, only 12 feet long, and 9 broad, built of Irish oak, and is nothing more than a kind of lofty pew, being without a roof or covering. Round the top, or cornice, are several shields with the coat-armour of families who have been benefactors to the church and poor; as 1. of Bathurst, 2. Master, 3. Monox, 4. Atkyns, 5. Cox, 6. Coxwell, 7. Smyth, impaling Master, and 8. *Or, a fefs between three wolves heads erased sable*, for How, of Guiting.

2. *St. John's chapel*, on the south side of the choir, or chancel. It is 34 feet long and 24 broad, and has an oratory in the south wall.

3. *St. Catherine's chapel*. This stands on the north side of the choir, and is 34 feet long and 13 broad. The roof is very curiously arched with stone, and ornamented with arms, knots and devices, 1. *Quarterly France and England*. 2. *Three ostrich's feathers issuing out of a ducal coronet*. 3. *A rose ensigned with a coronet*. 4. The letters I. H. several times repeated, for John Hakebourne, already shown to be abbat of Cirencester from 1504 to 1522, during whose government this chapel was thus roofed, as appears further by the date 1508 in figures. And it is said that this abbat and bishop Ruthale were at the expence of it. But Richard Osmund, who was purser to abbat Robert, is said to have founded the chapel. And his effigy in stone, with the head resting on a pillow, and a purse at his girdle, lies along under an arch in the wall.

The figure of St. Catherine with her wheel, and several votaries at her feet, is rudely painted near the window against the south wall, and has been formerly covered with white-wash.

4. *St. Mary's*, which stands on the north side of St. Catherine's, and is 74 feet long, and 21 broad. This was formerly endowed with considerable revenues. A register-book of this chapel, bearing date 1460, and containing all the grants to it, a rental of the lands, and a catalogue of the ornaments belonging to it, is preserved among Dugdale's manuscripts in the Ashmolean library.

5. *Trinity chapel* stands on the north of the north aisle. The windows of this chapel are said to have been very beautiful. In the east window were the figures of Peter king of Castile, Richard duke of York, Thomas duke of Surry, Richard earl of Salisbury, and of sir John Jeneville, but those figures have been long since defaced. *Atkyns*. In the wall at the east end are the following arms of benefactors.

1. *Gules, a chevron between three mullets Or*, for Danvers of Cirencester.

2. *Argent, on a bend gules three martlets Or*, for another Danvers.

3. *Gules, two bars Or, in chief two stags heads caboshed of the second*.

4. *Argent, on a bend gules three cinquefoils Or*, for Stradling.

5. *Gules, a chevron between 10 crosses pates argent*, for Berkeley.

6. *Gules,*

6. *Gules, 3 crosses patees Or, in chief a label of 3 points.*

7. *Argent, a fess between 3 crosses patees sable, for Garnon.*

8. *Sable, a cross argent.*

9. *Gules, 3 couple closes argent, for Avery.*

10. *Checky Or and gules, a fess ermine, for Thorpe.*

11. *Argent, a chevron between 3 crescents Or, for Baskerrolles.*

12. *Nebule Or and gules, for Dantesey.*

13. *Argent a chief indented sable, for Babent.*

14. *Sable, 6 doves argent, for Arundel.*

15. *Argent, a bend Or, in chief a label, for Carminowe.*

16. *Ermine, on a cross gules 5 martlets Or, for Lestock.*

17. *Checky Or and sable, a chief argent guttee du sang, for Colehill.*

18. *Argent, fretty gules, for Blackminster.*

19. *Gules, fretty argent, a canton of the second in the dexter chief, for Hewish.*

Note, the names are applied to the arms from a manuscript of the Rev. Mr. Carles, formerly minister of Cirencester.

In a niche in the wall without, at the east end of this chapel, are the effigies in stone of the virgin Mary, with the infant Jesus in her arms.

The Tower

Stands at the west end of the church. It is 134 feet high, well-proportioned and beautiful, with pinnacles and battlements. On the right hand of the entrance on a scutcheon, *A chevron three rams heads caboshed*, being the arms of the abbey, as before observed. And on the other side of the door, *Quarterly, France (semie of fleurs de lis) and England*.—From this manner of bearing the fleurs de lis, which it is said has not been used (*i. e.* by heralds) since the time of our king H. 4, it has been conjectured that the tower was built before 1416, which was the last year of his reign; but all sculptors are not heralds, and as it is not impossible, however erroneous, but the same may have been ignorantly used since that time, this circumstance proves little or nothing. In short, we have come to no certainty as to the time of the building. It is a piece of excellent masonry, and very judiciously secured by spurs and buttresses, as indeed it ought to be to bear the shock of so many bells in vibration at the great height of the bell-loft. When the larger bells are ringing, the rocking motion of the tower may be very sensibly felt by a person in the loft, but as yet the building does not appear to have sustained any injury from it; yet it would be adviseable perhaps to restrain the ringers from striking all the bells together, as they sometimes do at rejoicings.

Here



Muslow, sc. Baylis del. London.

Inside View of the South Porch of Cirencester Church.

Here are twelve bells, the tenor weighing about 37 hundred weight, and there are but very few instances of a peal of the same number in the kingdom out of London, where we believe are four peals of twelve. In a niche at the south-west angle is a statue of St. John, as large as life, to whom the church is dedicated. Another figure stands at the north-west angle.

The South Porch

Is a fine Gothic structure fronting the market-place, thirty-eight feet in front, and fifty high. It is richly ornamented with pinnacles and battlements of tabernacle-work, and with a great variety of carvings of dragons, beasts, and monstrous figures. There are twelve empty niches in the front where the twelve apostles originally stood, but the rigorous principles of the times in the great civil war would not permit them to remain. Over the porch is the town-hall, now used on parish-meetings and public business, but formerly the general sessions of the county have been held there, which we apprehend gave occasion to the placing of the figure of Justice over the door at the bottom of the stairs. The beautiful arched ceiling of this porch has induced us to give a plate of it. Alice Aveling, or de Avening, aunt to bishop Ruthale by the mother, gave one hundred marks towards the building of the porch, and his mother and other parishioners contributed to the finishing of it. *Leland.*
There

There is a meeting usually at Whitsuntide in some of the villages in this part of the country, called a *Whitsun-Ale*. It is a burlesque representation of the state of a great man and his family in antient times. The *Dramatis Personæ* are the lord, his lady, the steward, sword-bearer, mace-bearer, musician, fool, with other servants occasionally, and a large concourse of people. To fill these characters they pitch upon a person of respectable appearance for the *lord*; the *lady* is to be finely dressed, but need not be very modest; the *fool*, an active, flippanant fellow, in a jack-pudding dress, with a good deal of ribaldry; he carries a whip with a fox's brush for the lash; the *music* a tabor and pipe, &c. &c. The scene is the lord's hall, which is commonly a barn; and near it a may-pole is erected on the occasion.—These meetings are numerously attended by the neighbouring young people of both sexes. The young men chuse each a lady, and each presents her with a ribband. And there they dance, or otherwise amuse themselves, and are diverted with the frequent visits and conversation of the actors, of whom the fool seems to be principally attended to.—Of all these characters there is a curious representation in low relief on the outside of the parapet wall on the north of the nave of the church, to be commodiously seen from the leaded roof of St. Mary's chapel. The lord wears a cap and feather, and holds a scroll, on which is written, in antient Saxon characters, *BE MERRIE*; and the steward has a purse at his girdle. We have given a short description of the

the Whitsun-ale, as necessary to explain these figures. And we believe the custom to be almost peculiar to this part of the country.

There were several chantries and religious offices established in this church, *viz.*

1. The chantry of St. Mary.
2. The chantry of Jesus.
3. The chantry of St. Christopher, whereof Thomas Edmonds was the last chaplain, and had a pension, at the dissolution, of 4*l.* The lands belonging to these three chantries were granted to sir Oliver Cromwell 5 Jac.
4. The chantry of the Holy Trinity, whereof William Painter was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 4*l.* The lands belonging to it were granted to ——— Skevington, in the reign of E. 6.
5. The service of the Holy Trinity, of which Thomas Marshal was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 5*l.*
6. The chantry of St. Catherine.
7. The office of St. Thomas the Martyr, founded by sir William Nottingham, baron of the exchequer, whereof Thomas Neal was the last incumbent. See a curious inscription in Trinity chapel.
8. The chantry of St. Anthony,
9. The chantry founded by John Jones.
10. The service of St. John.
11. Robert Richards's chantry, whereof William Wilson was the last incumbent, and had a pension of 4*l.*
12. Alice

12. Alice Avening's chantry, whereof Henry Jones was the last chaplain, and had a pension of 5*l*.
13. The fraternity of St. Catherine, and
14. The fraternity of St. John the Baptist.

Monuments and Inscriptions.

1. *Those in the Body of the Church.* 2. *In Jesus' Chapel.*
 3. *In St. John's Chapel.* 4. *In the Choir, or Chancel.*
 5. *In St. Catherine's Chapel.* 6. *In St. Mary's Chapel.*
 7. *In Trinity Chapel.* 8. *In the Church-yard.*
-

1. In the Body of the Church.

In the south aisle, on a flat stone, engraved on a brass plate are the figures of a man and woman, and on labels proceeding from their mouths it is written,

Mercy God of my misdeede.

Lady help at my most neede.

And on a brass plate under their feet, in black character,

Reyse gracious Ihu to endles lyfe, at thy grete dome where all schall Apere Hughe Norys Groc' & Iohan hys wyf nowe dede in graue & beryed here yo' p'yers desyryng There soules for chere the x day of Iuly the yere our lord god MCCCCXXIX.—

The above rhymes are engraved in a continued form like prose.

In

In the passage before the chapels are the effigies of a man and woman engraved on a brass plate, and this inscription in old characters :

Orate pro aiabus Willi Nottingham et Cristine uxoris ejus qui quidem Willms obiit xxi° die mensis Nouembris Anno d'ni Millmo CCCC^o XXVII^o. Et predict. Cristina obiit iiij° die Iulij A^o Dni M^o CCCC^o XXXIIIJ^o. q^r aiab' p'piciet. deus Amen.—*Close by, on another stone (lately removed) was written,*

Munde vale tibi ve, fugiens me dum sequerer te,
Tu sequeris modo me, munde vale tibi ve.

Under the figure of an ecclesiastic, engraven on brass,

Orate pro anima dni Radulphi Parsons quondam capellani p'petue cantarie Ste trinitatis in hac ecclesia fundate, qui obiit xxix° die augusti a^o dni mccccxxviii Cuj. aie p'piciet' deus Amen.

Near the last on a brass plate, fixed to a flat stone.

Cum Iana Uxore, Radulphus Willet,

In dandis Consiliis Sapiens,

In expediendis negotiis Promptus,

In componendis Litibus Prudens,

Et in omnibus animi motibus

Æqualiter temperandis

Supra modum fœlix,

Hic sepultus est.

Ob. { Hic } Aug. 23, 1692 } Annorum { 67.
 { Illa } Sept. 8, 1679 } { 49.

L I

Upon

Upon a small brass plate in the south aile is the following punning epitaph, on one who was killed at the taking of Cirencester.

HERE LYETH bvr̄ied y^e Body of HODGKINSON PAINE, Clothier, who died y^e 3d of Feb. 1642.

The Poore's Supplie his life & calling grac't
'till warre's made rent & PAINE from poore displac't.
But what made poore vnfortunate PAINE blest,
by warre they lost their PAINE, yet found noe rest,
Hee looseing quiet by Warre yet gained ease,
by it PAINE's life began, and paine did cease;
And from y^e troubles here him God did sever,
by death to life, by Warre to peace for ever.

And at a small distance from it,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Paine deceased
the 8th day of Ianuary An. Do. 1668.

One was our thought One life wee fought,
One rest wee both jntended;
Our bodies haue To sleepe one graue,
Our foules to God ascended.

On a flat stone before the chancel, *Azure, a lion rampant argent, in chief three escalops of the second.* And this memorial beneath:

Near this place are interred the Remains of Mr. James Clutterbuck, Born Oct. 11, 1673. Dyed June 30, 1722, and Sufanna (Daughter of John and Sufanna

fanna Willet) his Wife. She was born June 11, 1671,
Dyed Febr^y 4, 1757.

Edward	} their Sons	{	Mar. 1, 1689	} dyed	{	Apr. 17, 1728.
John			Oct. 8, 1697			Nov. 27, 1699.
John			Jan. 21, 1700			July 2, 1701.
Mary their Daugh ^r .			Jan. 1, 1711			Jan. 11, 1711.

On the left hand under the organ-loft,

Near this place was interred
the body of Mr. JAMES CLUTTERBUCK,
who died June 30th 1722, aged 49.
He left to the care of his wife Sufanna Clutterbuck
a numerous family,
which she brought up with paternal tendernefs,
evincing her affection for her husband,
by a constant attention to the trust reposed in her
till she departed this life February 4th, 1757,
in the 86th year of her age.

Of their children three died in their infancy,

Edward died April 17th, 1728, aged 39.

Sarah Dec^r. 8th, 1771, 68.

Willet June 24th, 1773, 66.

James Nov^r. 26th, 1776, 72.

Sufanna May 10th, 1788, 79.

ELIZABETH their youngest daughter having been
first married to Mr. SOMERSET DRAPER of LONDON,
and after his death to Mr. JOHN CRIPPS
an inhabitant of this Town,
died February 29th 1784.

On the right hand under the organ-loft, on a marble tablet,

To the Memory
of the Rev^d. JOHN WILLET,
only fon of JOHN and SUSANNA WILLET,
inhabitants of this Town,
He was many years vicar of WADHURST in *Suffex*,
and among other exemplary qualities, exhibited
a striking instance of the goodness of his heart
in his attention to his twin sister
SUSANNA CLUTTERBUCK,
who was left a widow, with six children.
His tender regard for them and their welfare
ceased not but at his death, which happened
Jan^y 30th, 1742, in the 70th year of his age.
When his remains were deposited in his own
Parish Church at WADHURST.

This and the corresponding monument
was erected by the executors of
Mrs. ELIZABETH CRIPPS
in pursuance of her will.

On an oval marble tablet against the south wall,

Near this Place
rest the Remains of
SARAH the Wife of TIM['] STEVENS,
who died Sept^r. 4th, 1784, Aged 30.

On

On a marble table next the above,

Near this Place

rest the Remains of

THOMAS GALE and MARY his Wife.

He departed this life June the 25th, 1789,

Aged 75 Years.

She September the 22d, 1791, Aged 59 Years.

Also

of THOMAS and ANN, Son and Daughter

of THOMAS and MARY GALE.

He died January the 7th, 1791, Aged 33 Years.

She died May the 13th, 1785, Aged 31 Years.

WILLIAM GALE, the Son of

The above THOMAS and MARY GALE,

Departed this life on the 6th day of

August 1795, aged 40 Years,

and lies interred near this place.

On a small marble table against the same wall,
Gules, a lion rampant regardant Or. And under, it is
thus inscribed:

Non procul hinc repositum est quod fuit mortale
Bridgidiaë, JACOBI SMALL Filiaë natu maximæ,
Inter Laudandas Laude nonnulla dignæ: Matrimonio
conjuncta fuit JACOBO PENRY, de Aberfenny in
Agro Breconienfi Clerico, Cui peperit Annam Filio-
lam, in eodem Sepulchro contentam.

Obt. { Hæc } Decimo
 { Illa } Die Sept. Anno Dom. 1735,
 Vicesimo quarto.

Against

Against the wall at the west end,

Hic prope situm est
quod mortale fuit Thomæ Deacon,
Opidani utilis et amati,
Viri quidem scientis,

Nec non munere erga Deum et homines Fungentis,
Multum deploratus obiit

4^{to} Aug^{ti} Anno { Salutis 1661,
 { Ætatis 46.

Illi

(post annos circiter Viginti novem
pura et sancta Viduitate elapsos)

Accesserunt exuviæ Margeriæ
ejusdem Thomæ Deacon
Vxoris præstantissimæ.

Hanc mortalitatem exuit

19^{no} Majj Anno { Salutis 1690,
 { Ætatis 74.

Upon a flat stone near the belfry, these arms, *A cross cotised between four lions rampant, in chief three roses.* And below, inscribed,

Underneath are deposited the Remains of THOMAS DEACON, of Elmstree, in the Parish of Tetbury, Gent. And likewise of ANNE his second Daughter. The Father departed this Life Sept. y^e 30th, 1723, aged 78 Years. The Daughter y^e 19th of Dec. following, aged 36 Years.

They with the other Relations here interr'd all dying in a well grounded Hope of a joyful Resurrection.

On

On a mural monument on the west side,

Near this place lie the bodies of
Nicholas Edwards, Mercer, who departed
this life the 13th of August, 1711,
Aged 31 years.

And Elizabeth his Wife, who departed
this life the 27th of September, 1712,
Aged 30 years.

And of their Daughter Elizabeth
who died Nov. 29, 1726,
Aged 21 years.

Against the north wall, on a plain table of white
marble,

This marble is placed here in memory of Mr. JOHN
GASTRELL,

Who died the 18th day of June, 1767, in his 45th Year,
And is buried in the North West Corner
Of the Church-Yard of *St. Mary le Strand* in the County of
Middlesex.

He was a Native of this Town;
And after a liberal Education in *Winchester* School,
Served an Apprenticeship in the Parish of *St. Mary le Strand*,
Where he was soon after admitted to a share of the Busyness,
And by diligence, sweetness of manners, & an unblemisht
conduct,

Obtained the good-will of all ranks of People,
Acquired a decent Fortune,
And bequeathed it to his Relations & Friends
With a clear Head & benevolent Heart.

His

His Father RICHARD GASTRELL *Gent.*
 Discharged the office of *Steward* of the Manor of *Cirencester*
 For many Years,
 With proper dignity, much judgment, & great candour;
 Was eminent & justly esteemed as an *Attorney & Conveyancer*,
 And remarkable for being more attentive
 To the advantage of his numerous Clients,
 Than to the rewards which his skill & success
 Entitled him to expect or demand.
 He departed this Life the 27th day of February, 1736,
 Aged 57,
 And lieth interred in the Parish Church of *Crudwell*
 In the County of *Wilts.*

Over the door at the north entrance, on a small
 marble tablet:

In grateful Remembrance
 of the Liberality
 of
 Mrs. SUSANNA RAWES
 who in the Year
 1793
 Repaired and restored,
 At her sole Cost,
 The Battlements on
 The middle Aisle of this Church.

At

At the entrance just without St. Catherine's chapel,
on a plain marble table,

Joseph Kilner
of Merton college in the university of Oxford,
sometime fellow, and since beneficiary,
after a life of infirmity most graciously alleviated,
and wonderfully lengthened out to more than 72 years,
died the 3d day of June 1793,
prostrate to the will of God, and to the riches of his
mercy,
in this end to sin, and way to immortality
through JESUS CHRIST our Lord.

2. In Jesus' Chapel.

A handsome marble monument. The busts at top
of a lady between two gentlemen, with their arms:
1. *Argent, a fess gules between three faulcons with wings
display'd azure, beaked and bell'd Or*, for Georges. 2.
*Gules, three fleurs de lis Or, on a chief argent a lion of
the first.* 3. *Party per fess Or and argent, a lion ram-
pant gules*, for Powell. On the table this inscription:

To the Lasting Remembrance
of
WILLIAM GEORGES, Esq;
This Monument was erected
by
REBECCA his *Relict*.

M m

Who

Who being afterwards married to

THOMAS POWELL, Esq;

Ordered that his Memory also should be
Herein transmitted to Posterity.

WILLIAM GEORGES, Esq;

Was underneath interred, June the 18th 1707,

In the 81st Year of his Age.

By his Body was deposited That of

THOMAS POWELL, Esq; Sept. the 13th 1718,

In the 67th Year of his Age.

To their Remains were added Those of

REBECCA,

Nov. y^e 8th 1722, in y^e 80th Year of her Age:

Whose Bequest, out of y^e Estate devised to her by
W. G. did, at Lady-Day, 1728, amount to 2400*l.*
and 200*l.* a year, for Erecting & Endowing a Charity-
School, or Schools, in this Town. The other Pious
and Charitable Gifts of R. P. and also of W. G. &
T. P. are recorded in y^e Catalogue of Benefactions
to this Pa.ish.

In the arch of this chapel, was this inscription:

Orate pro aia dni Ich'is Pratt quondam Capellani
p'petue cantarii beate Marie in ecclia Sti Joh'is Bap-
tistæ Cirencestr, qui obiit A°. Dni M°CCCCLXX.
Cujus aia p'pitietur Deus.

3. *In St. John's Chapel.*

Here is a handsome raised monument of black and
white marble. Over the arch are the following arms,
viz.

viz. *Parted per pale, baron and femme, 1. Argent, on a chevron sable between three oak leaves proper as many besants; on a chief gules a sea-mew between two anchors erected of the first, for Monox. 2. Argent, on a bend sable three pears Or, in the chief point a trefoil, for Perry.* Under the arch are the figures of a man and woman kneeling, with their respective arms over their heads, as above, and between them a table, with the following inscription in gold capital letters:

MEMORIÆ SACRVM GEORGIJ MONOX ARMIG. CIREN-
CESTRIÆ NATI, QVI (POST PLVRIMOS ANNOS IN MERCAN-
DIZIS LABORIOSE & PRVDENTER PERIMPLEVERAT) AD
GRADVM & DIGNITATEM OFFICIJ VICECOMITIS LONDI-
NENSIS VNANIMI OPTIMATVM CONSENSV, FVIT VOCATUS.
MAGNAS DENARIORVM SVMMAS SEPARALIB' LOCIS IN PIOS
VSVS LEGAVIT; & VT SINGULAREM AMOREM QVO NATALE
SOLVM VIVVS AMAVIT FVTVRIS SÆCVLIS MANIFESTARET,
CENTVM LIBRAS IN PECVNIIS NVMERATIS, & TENEMENTA
ANNVI VALORIS VIGINTI LIBRARVM PRO MELIORI HVIVS
VILLÆ PAUPERVM SVSTENTACIONE, & LECTURA HAC EC-
CLESIA SINGVLIS MENSIBVS PRÆDICANDA IN PERPETVVM
ASSIGNAVIT. Maria vxor mœstissima (ex qua solas duas
filias superstites suscepit) Viro Charissimo, pietatis, amoris, et
obseruantiaẽ ergò posuit.

OBIIT 26° DIE IUNI ANNO
SALVTIS 1638, ÆTATIS SVÆ (68.)

*Dies mortis aternæ vitæ
natalis est.*

Under are the figures of the two daughters, one of them with the arms as on the dexter side above-men-
tioned; the other, *Baron and femme, 1. Vert, a chevron undy between three griphons rampant Or. 2. Monox, as above.*

On a grave-stone,

Here resteth the body of Mary Olive, a pretty little tender branch of Robert and Elizabeth Olive, who departed this life October the 30th, 1701.

4. *In the Chancel.*

Immediately before the steps leading to the communion table, on two lozenges of white marble fixed to a large flat stone, are memorials, with only the initials and dates [J. H. 1753. C. H. 1733] if indeed they may be so called, the brevity of which without explanation would soon defeat the purpose. We therefore think it necessary to observe that the initials stand for Joseph Harrison, M. A. late vicar of this church, and Catherine his wife. And close on another marble table is this inscription:

Sr. THOMAS HARRISON, Kn^t.
 Chamberlain of the City of London,
 youngest Son of Joseph Harrison Clerk,
 late Minister of this Parish,
 died the 2d of January 1765, aged 64.
 Dame DOROTHEA HARRISON, Relict of
 Sir Thomas Harrison, died Jan^y. 8th 1773, aged 71.

On a flat stone,
 M. S.
 Rogeri Burgoyne
 M. D.
 Qui post

Prudentem,

Prudentem, piam, prosperam
 Facultatis Medicæ
 (Annos circiter Viginti)
 Administrationem,
 tandem,
 Debilitato Corpore,
 Subitâ sed non improvisâ morte
 Occubuit,
 Decembris 21^{mo},
 1674,
 Etatis suæ 46.

At top, *Parted per pale baron and femme, 1. A chevron between three talbots, on a chief embattled three martlets. 2. Six roundlets, 3, 2, 1, on a chief a lion passant.*

Next to the altar, on the right hand, on a mural monument, the figure of Christ ascending in the clouds, and under, this inscription:

NEAR this place are deposited the Remains of
 DOROTHEA WILLES

second Daughter of FRANCIS CAPPER, Rector
 of *Earl Sobam*, in the County of *Suffolk*;

And Wife to WILLIAM SHIPPEN WILLES,
 Perpetual Curate of this Parish.

She was born March 7, 1769: Married Apr. 8, 1794:

And having blessed her Husband for the short

Period of eleven Months,

She died February 19th, 1795.

Who hath found a Virtuous Woman? Her Price is
 far above Rubies.

The

The Heart of her Husband shall safely trust her.
She will do him Good, and not Evil, all the Days
of her Life.

She openeth her Mouth with Wisdom, and in her
Tongue is the Law of Kindness.

She looketh well to the Ways of her Household, and
eateth not the Bread of Idleness.

She stretcheth out her Hand to the Poor, yea she
reacheth forth her Hand to the Needy.

Favour is deceitful, and Beauty vain; but such a
Woman who feareth the Lord shall be exalted.

God shall reward her for the Fruit of her Faith,
And through the Merits of her REDEEMER, she
shall be praised in the Gates.

Prov. Chap. xxxi.

Near the last, on a marble tablet,

H. S. E.

Juxta carissimum Fratrem,

Vix ipse fratri superstes,

SAMUEL SELFE, Johann. et Eliz.

Filius natu maximus.

Cui nihil unquam amicis desideratum

Preter Etatem diuturniorem.

Dolemus ut Homines,

Ut Christiani lætamur.

Optimis quippe conditionibus natus,

Annum agens vicesimum,

Cœlo maturus,

Vitam

Vitam æterna caducam
Feliciter permutavit
D. Feb. 5. A. S. 1759.

M. S.

Egregii Juvenis
Radulph. Willet Selfe,
Ioannis et Elizabethæ Selfe Fil. secund.
Vultu honesto,
Pectore generoso,
Moribus placidiffimis;
Annum agens decimum sextum
Carus Parentibus,
Carus Præceptoribus,
Virtute quam annis maturior.
Diem obiit supremum
XI Kal. Feb.
MDCCLVIII.
Vale Anima dulcissima!

Near this Place lies
The Body of John Selfe, Clothier,
Who was a most kind and affectionate Husband,
An indulgent and good Father,
A good Master and a faithful Friend.
He departed this Life on the 28th of Jan.
In the year of our Lord 1763,
And in the 56th Year of his Age.
E. S. died July y^e 29th, 1766, aged 49 Years.

At

At bottom, Ermine, three chevronels gules; on a scutcheon of pretence, barry of twelve pieces sable and argent, on a chief of the second three lioncels rampant of the first, for Willet.

Against the same wall,

Near this place resteth the Body of
Mr^s. ELIZABETH CRIPPS, Wife of **Mr. JOHN CRIPPS jun^r**
 who departed this Life Feb^y. 3^d 1758, Aged 41 Years.

Also of Edward their Son who died Feb. 9, 1758,
 Aged 9 Years.

And also John & Henry their Sons, both Born Decem^r. 3^d,
 And both died the 10th of y^e same Month, in the Year 1743.

To these are added
 the Remains of the above named **Mr. JOHN CRIPPS**,
 who died the 7th day of May, 1771, aged 49 Years.

Near the last,

IN

THIS CHANCEL

WITH RELIGIOUS CARE ARE DEPOSITED

THE MORTAL REMAINS

OF **JOHN CRIPPS, Esq.**

OF THIS PLACE

WHO

AFTER A LONG ILLNESS WHICH HE BORE
 WITH CHEERFUL RESIGNATION TO THE WILL OF
 God,

AND THE COMFORTABLE HOPE OF A BLESSED IM-
 MORTALITY,

Re-

RESIGNED HIS SOUL
 INTO THE HANDS
 OF HIM WHO GAVE IT
 ON THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH 1793,
 AGED 47 YEARS.

AMORIS ET DESIDERII ERGO
 DILECTO CONJUGI
 MARMOR HOC POSUIT
 VIDUA MERENS.

At top, Or, on a chevron, vert three horseshoes of the field, for Cripps; impaling, quarterly, 1st and 4th argent three chevronels gules, for Selfe; 2d and 3d, barry of twelve pieces sable and argent, on a chief of the second three lions rampant of the first. Willet.

Left hand next the altar. On a small marble tablet against the wall,

To the Memory
 of the Rev^d. SAMUEL JOHNSON, M. A.
 Sometime Student of Christ Church Oxon,
 One of the Vicars of Bampton
 And for more than 24 Years
 Minister of this Parish,

The laborious Duties of which he discharged
 with exemplary Zeal and Punctuality.

He departed this life at Bampton
 Full of Faith,

March 9th 1784, Aged 59 Years.
 And lies buried with his Ancestors
 at Laycock in the County of Wilts.

N n

Near

Near the last:

In Memory of

Mrs. BRIDGET HUGHES

Who died March the 19th 1774,

Aged 77,

Also Mrs. ELIZABETH HUGHES

who died July the 5th 1776,

Aged 85, Daughters of the

Rev^d Mr. JOHN HUGHES

Late Rector of Coln

Saint Dennis.

North wall. On a small marble table,

In Memory of

EDWARD WILBRAHAM, Woolstapler,

who departed this Life the 10th of Octo^r. 1771,

aged 60 Years.

Also of MARY his first Wife,

who died the 14th of April, 1753, Aged 57.

A stone, with the following inscriptions, lay where
Mr. Harrison's is, viz.

H. S.

Thomas Carles, Art. M^r.

De Cirencester Pastor } Digniff.
De Barnsley Rector }

Vtriusq; Ornamentum,

Mortuus Triste Desiderium.

Vir

Vir

Integritate vitæ,
Suavitate morum,
Ingenii Dotibus,
Concionandi venustate

Adeo insignis,
Vt non sine ingenti
Totius Diocæseos luctu
Decefferit,

Oct. 7, Ann. Æt. 50,

Dom. 1675.

H. R. J. P.

Depositum Subditi fidelis Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ,

Filij morigeri et Artis Chirurgiæ peritissimi,

Gulielmi Freame, Generosi,

Qui obiit Oct. 24° Ann. Dom. 1678, Ætat. 58.

Siste Viator,

Mortuus Loquor,

Audi;

Morte meâ cecidi,

Christi virtute Resurgam:

Ergo et tu.

5. *In St. Catherine's Chapel.*

On a flat stone, under two figures engraved on brass, is this inscription:

MR. IOHN GUNTER AND ALICE HIS WIFE, BEING FULL
AS OF YEARES SO OF BOVNTY AND CHARITY, ARE GATHER-
ED TO THEIR FATHERS IN PEACE. SHEE WAS HERE
BURYED

BVRYED 18^o MARTIJ A^o DNI 1626 AGED 86 YEARES. HEE
 WAS BVRYED AT KYNTBURY IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS
 WITH THE LIKE MONVMENT 2^{do} IANUARIJ A^o. DNI 1624
 AGED 89 YEARES. IO^s. PLATT AR. BORUND^m. GENER ET
 EXEC^r. HOC POSVIT.

On a handsome mural monument of white marble,

Near this Place lie the Remains of

Mr. JOSEPH CRIPPS,

A person eminently distinguished

By many great, and good Qualities.

He was

Uniformly affectionate, as a Husband;

Prudently indulgent, as a Father;

Discreetly kind, as a Master;

Amiably free, as a Friend.

In his extensive Business, he was able, upright and
 successful.

After the most earnest endeavour to acquire,

At length he effectually attained

That happy frame of Mind, that Spirit of Resignation,
 which rendered him superior

To the changes, and chances of this mortal State;
 To the repeated attacks of a tedious and painful illness,
 And to the Stroke of Diffolution.

Obt. Maii 28, A. D. 1782, Æt. 53.

Arms. — *Or, on a chevron vert 5 harseshoes of the
 field, for Cripps; — impaling, Arg. three talbots heads
 erased, between 9 crosses crozlets, sable, for Hall.*

A small

A small oval tablet bears this inscription
 In Memory of
 ALBERT EYLES,
 late an Apothecary
 of this Town,
 Who died March 14, A. D. 1782,
 Aged 55 Years,
 And lies interred near
 this Marble.

A flat stone. *On a bend ermine three leopards heads caboshed*: And underneath,

Hic requiescit
 Ærumnarum portu et meta Salutis
 quicquid terrestre fuit
 Thomæ Kemble, Gen.
 Cujus anima
 Ad Superos evolavit
 14 Cal. Aug.
 Anno { Ætat. Sux 71,
 { Æræ Christianæ 1740.

Anne Kemble, Daughter of Anthony Kemble, was
 buried the 14th day of Dec. 1733.

William Kemble, Gent. obiit June 22d 1745.

On a flat blue stone: *A fess embattled between three pears*; and under,

Here lyeth interred the body of Mr. Thomas Perry, who departed this life y^e 20th day of March 1706-7, in the 75th year of his age.

And

And also the body of Mrs. Mercy Perry the Wife of Thomas Perry, who was interred the 15th day of June, 1668.

In Memory of
The wife of John Price, who died the 29th of March,
1734.

On a flat stone,

In Memory of John Saunders. He died June the 14th, 1765, aged 45 Years. Also of Mary his Wife, who died January 1780, aged 62 Years.

In this chapel were the two following memorials:

Sub hoc tumulo requiescunt corpora Iohannis Avening et Alicie uxoris ejus qui obierunt xiiii die Aprilis anno Dni 1501.—*Alice Avening founded a chantry in this church.*

Pray for the souls of Iohn George, esq; and Alice his wife, who were buried here, which Iohn decessid the 8th day of October 1556. And the said Alice decessid the 3d day of May 1557, and had four sons and eight daughters.—*He was lord of the manor of Baunton.*

In this chapel was formerly the following pleasing memorial, written by Mr. Carles the minister, on Mercy Dansey, daughter of Jonathan Dansey.

Loe cruel death hath hurried hence
A little world of innocence.

Thus

Thus early fruits are often found,
Like her, betimes, dropt to the ground.

Mercy's not lost; here's only one
From misery to mercy gone.

Posuit T. C.

6. *In St. Mary's Chapel.*

At the entrance to this chapel, against the wall, on a brass plate, is the effigy of an old man in a gown, with a taylor's shears over his head, and a dog at his feet. At bottom,

In Lent by will a sermon hee deuised
And yerely precher with a noble prised
Seuen nobles hee did geue y^e poore for to defend
And 80*l.* to xvi men did lend
In Cicester Burford Abington & Tetburie
Euer to be to them a stocke Yerrly.

Phillip Marner who died in the yeare 1587.

Under a free-stone arch are the effigies of a man in the habit of a lawyer, and of a woman in the genteel dress of her time, lying along, with their hands in a praying posture. On a table this memorial:

Here *lyeth* the bodies of Humfry Bridges and Elizabeth his wife. He dyed the 17 of April 1598. Shee dyed the 6 of Iuly 1620. They had both sonnes and daught^r. He gaue 40*s.* yeerly for ever to the poore of this towne. Shee gave 6 habitations for 6 poore widdowes with 6*s.* weekly for ever.

Over

Over the figure of a young man kneeling at the head,
 Humfrid^s. Fil. sen. de Medio Templo obiit 2^o Decemb. 1610.

Over a like figure kneeling at the feet,
 Anthon. Fil. jun. de Medio Templo obiit 2^o Aug. 1617.

At bottom are the figures in miniature of one son and eight daughters, with books in their hands. The whole monument is in good preservation, with iron palisadoes round it.

Against the south wall is an elegant white marble monument for sir William Master. He is represented in a cumbent posture, leaning on his left elbow, and over him, on a table, this inscription :

Quos Deus conjunxit separat tantum
 non repudiat Mors.

MEMORIÆ SACRUM

Fidissimi serui dei et Regis subditi

Patriæque amantissimi suæ,

GULIELMI MASTER apud Corinios

Equitis Aurati;

Qui Martyrem Regem mœrens Martyr

Semimortuus vixit diu;

Citius dominum secutus, ni morbo paralytico

Restitisset firma fides

Restituendi Regis Insignissimi,

Caroli Secundi;

Vtcunq;

Vtcunq; apud Vigorniam, fusi.
 Voti tandem, ac vaticinij compos factus,
 Tantiq; pignoris, Justorum resurrectionis.
 Vitam mortalem exuit; immortalī deo
 Cœlitum choro gratias acturus,

Anno Dom: 1661 (Ætatis 61) Mens: Mart: die 3.

He married Alice one of y^e daught^{rs}. of S^t. Edw:
 Estcowrt of Newnton in y^e county of Wiltes K^t. by
 whome he had issue 6 Sonns and 6 daught: A Lady
 highly eminent both for her partes and pietie who
 haveing by y^e blessing of God passed through y^e
 troubles of an intestine warr, & lived to see her
 Children bred up, resigned her Soule to God, whose
 body lyes here interred waiting for y^e resurrection of
 y^e. Iust. Sept. 5: 1660.

Under his figure are four other tables, with inscrip-
 tions. Upon the first is written,

M. S.
 Elizabethæ Uxoris Thomæ Master,
 Thomæ Filii,
 Quæ
 (Variolarum morbo contracto)
 Proxime a puerperio obiens,
 Una cum infantulo
 Hic jacet Sepulta:
 Ob nativam comitatem,
 Ingenij Elegantiam,
 Singularem modestiam,
 Omnesque; alias, quæ feminam, uxorem,
 O o

Aut

Aut Matrem exornant virtutes
 Maxime deslenda : præfertim Conjugi,
 Cui, in Solatium tanti doloris,
 Et ad Supplendas amicitiaë vices
 (a fato Solum dissolvendæ)
 Infantes duos Tho: et Elizab.
 Charissima Amoris Pignora
 Legavit A. D. 1691, Æt. 26.

Upon the second,

Hic subtus Depositum est
 Quicquid mortale fuit
ELIZ. MASTER, THO. & ELIZ. filiaë,
 Immortalem si requiras partem,
 Ad patriam Cœlestem redijt,
 Itineris terreni maculis
 Quam minimum inquinata :
 In qua Ingenij Elegancia, Gestus
 Suavis, Compositus, Decorus,
 Omnes deniq; enituere virtutes,
 Quibus indoles optima
 Ad pietatem, prudentiam,
 Et Mores pudicos Formata,
 Instrui et Ornari possit,
 Adeo ut licet Ætas sit imperfecta,
 Vita tamen illi perfecta.
 Obijt Aug. 15 A° Dom. 1705 Æ. 16.

Upon

Upon the third,

M. S.

ELIZ. MASTER, Tho: Master Arm. viduæ,
Et THO: DYKE de Horeham
In Agro Suffexiæ Arm. Filiæ,

Quæ se

Morum elegantia, Integritatis puræ,
Temperantiæ, & Modestiae severæ,
Candoris eximij, & Pietatis sinceræ,
Omnibus imitandum Exemplum præbuit.

His Animi dotibus accessit

Valetudo ad Extremam

Seneſcutem Integra:

Quæ si tibi contingant Lector,

Summam hujus Vitæ

Fælicitatem Consequeris,

Et Futuræ Gloriam expectes.

Obijt Ian: 28: Aº: Dom: 1703-4. Æ. 83.

Upon the fourth,

P. H. M.

Filius Unicus

In memoriam Patris Optimi,

THOMÆ MASTER Armigeri,

In quo

Morum gravitas, humanitate condita,

Animus piè liberalis,

Indoles vere generosa,

Quicquid demum aut Virum probum,

Aut ornatum decebat,

O o 2

Summe

Summe emicuit.

Virtutes has imitare Lector,
Ut fias Deo et hominibus charus.
Obijt A. D. 1680, Æt. 56.

7. *In Trinity Chapel.*

At the north end of this chapel is a marble monument with the busts of Allen earl Bathurst and his lady, and a weeping genius between them. Upon the tablet is this inscription:

Near this Place are deposited the Remains of
ALLEN EARL BATHURST, and CATHERINE LADY
BATHURST.

In the Legislative & Judicial department
of the great Council of the Nation he served his
Country 69 Years with honour, ability & diligence.

Judgment and taste directed his learning,

Humanity tempered his Wit,

Benevolence guided all his Actions.

He died regretted by most, & praised by all,

The 16th day of September, 1775, aged 91.

Catherine his Consort, by her milder Virtues

added Lustre to his great Qualities;

Her domestic Oeconomy extended his Liberality,

Her judicious charity his Munificence,

Her prudent government of her family, his hospitality.

She received the reward of her Exemplary life

The 8th day of June 1768, aged 79.

Married July the 6th, 1704.

Beneath the table are the following arms, *Quarterly*, 1st and 4th Bathurst; 2d and 3d. *Argent*, on a cross of Saint George *gules* five escallops *Or*, for Villiers. A scutcheon of pretence, *Quarterly* 1st and 4th, *Barry* of six *argent* and *gules*, a canton *ermine*, for Apley; 2d and 3d *Gules*, a bend between two escallops *Or*, for Petre. For crest, supporters and motto, see p. 232.

Close to the above, is a mural monument of white marble, with a bust at top, for Lord Chancellor Bathurst, and on the tablet this inscription:

In Memory of HENRY Earl BATHURST
Son and Heir of ALLEN Earl BATHURST,
And Dame CATHERINE his Wife.

His Ambition was to render himself not
unworthy of such Parents.

He was born on the second day of May 1714, O. S.
And died on the sixth day of August, 1794, N. S.

Office of St. Thomas a Becket.

This office stands at the east end of the aforesaid chapel, and is a little raised above, and railed off from the other part. Against the north wall, there is a painting of a bishop, habited in his mitre, in a cumbent posture, representing Thomas a Becket, archbishop of Canterbury. The catastrophe of that haughty ecclesiastic, at the height of papal tyranny,
every

every body the least read in English history must be acquainted with. He was murdered in his own cathedral, and afterwards canonized, on account of his great zeal for papal authority. Under the figure, in the rude orthography of the 14th or 15th centry, is the following, copied exactly from the original:

WHAT mā othir womā worſcip' this holi ſeīnt Biſſchop & mart' e'iry ſunday that bith in the yere w' a pat' n' & ō aue Othir ony almus geueth to a poor mā or bring ony candill lyght laſſ or more he ſchall haue v yiſtis grauntid of god The firſte is he ſchall haue reyſonabil gode to his lyues ende The ſeconde is that hys ēnimes ſchall haue no pouir to dō hym no bodely harme nor dyſeſe The iij is what reyſonabil thyng that he will aſke of god & that holy ſent h' ſchall be graunt' The iiij that he ſchall be onbournd of all his tribulacion & dyſeſe The v is that in his laſte inde haue ſchrift (||) & houſſill (*) & grete repentaunce & ſacramēte of an newntinge (+) & thē he may come to that blyſſe that neuer hath ende amen.

The above inſcription is a kind of Directory, or practical ſyſtem of religion, very unlike to chriſtianity. It is aſtoniſhing that the chriſtian religion could have been ſo debaſed and corrupted. An inordinate deſire of wealth and power had made it the policy of the Romiſh church to keep the people in the groſſeſt ignorance. To that end, public worſhip was performed in Latin, which very few underſtood, and the bible was not ſuffered to be tranſlated into the vulgar tongue. By ſuch means, reduced to a

(||) Confeſſion. (*) The eucharift. (+) Extreme unction.
ſtate

state of ignorance in religion, the people were brought to believe that it consisted in a few trifling externals; and to place an implicit faith in whatever their clergy taught, who seldom failed to improve that confidence to their own advantage.

Those who first taught people to pray to saints, and to rely on their merits, intended to deserve well of the licentious part of mankind. It was shewing them a trick how to go to heaven by proxy, by getting others to do their work for them. It was gratifying to flesh and blood, but it set aside the necessity of a holy life, and subverted true religion. Such as led profligate lives were glad to get rid of the difficulties and restraints which the sincere practice of true religion is attended with, when they were taught a way of shifting the burthen from their own shoulders, and of making their purse compound for all their vice and wickedness.

As, on one hand, the above doctrine excites pity for the times of ignorance when it was broached, as well as horror at the impiety of addressing prayers to the dead bishop, as a kind of partner with the deity; so on the other, it gives occasion to reflect on the present more happy condition of ourselves and others, to whom the scriptures are accessible, their doctrines explained, and suitable practice enforced, in the writings and discourses of an order of learned and pious men, set apart for the public service.

In

In this chapel are several very antient flat stones of grey marble, with inscriptions on brasse plates, and others whose plates are now gone. On one of the former is the figure of a man with a lady on each side, and this memorial in old characters:

Hic sepeliuntur Willms Prelatte Armiger specialissim' benefactor huj' Capelle Agnes nup' uxor Iohannis Martyn et Iohana filia et heres Ricardi de Cobyndon Relicta Iohannis Twynyho de Cayforde in Comitatu Soms. Armigeri uxores ip'ius Willi qui quidem Willms Prelatte obiit in vigilia Ascencionis d'nice xxvi° die maij Anno d'ni M°CCCC°lxij. quor' a'i'abus p'piciet' de' a.

On another stone, whereon are the effigies of a man and woman and fourteen children, was this inscription, now in part torn off:

Hic jacet Robertus Pagge cum Margareta sibi sponsa
prole fecunda

Vicinis gratus fuerat mercator amatus
Pacificus plenis manibus subventor egenis
Ecclesiisq; viis ornator et his reparator
Mill C quater quater et anno sed Aprilis
Octava luce mortem pertransiit ipse
Celi solamen De' illi conferat Amen.

*On a label, issuing out of the woman's mouth,
That to the Trinite for us pray syng or rede.*

On

On the brass fixed to another stone, are the figures of a man, his two wives, and eight children, and it is thus inscribed:

Orate pro aiabus Iohannis Benett et Agnetis uxor' suarum qui quidem Iohannes obiit decimo nono die mensis Iulii Anno Domini Millimo CCCC° nonagesimo septimo quor' animabus

*On a scroll over his first wife's head is written,
Spiritus s'cte de' miserere nobis.*

Over his head,

Saeta Trinitas unus Deus miserere nobis.

*Over his other wife's head (now torn off) was written,
Fili redemptor mundi miserere nobis.*

On the brass plate of another stone are representations of a man and his four wives, two on each side, and beneath the figures,

Hic jacent Reginaldus Spycer quondam m'cator isti' ville qui obiit ix° die Iulij Anno dni Mill'mo CCCC° xlij° et Margareta Iuliana Margareta ac Iohna uxores ej' quor' aiab' p'picietur d's Amen.

On another, is the effigy of a man in armour, with spurs on, and a sword by his side, in the pomel of which are these arms, *A pile, over all a chevron*. Round the stone, on brass, it was written, but now imperfect,

Hic jacet Richardus Dixton Armiger qui obiit die sancti Laurencii martyris Anno dni MCCCCxxxviii° cujus anime propicietur de' Amen.

P p

On

On a brass plate, fixed to a grey marble, a man in armour, and round the edges,

----- Merton Armiger qui obiit die
Sti Laurentii MCCCXXXVIII cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen.

On a plain marble table against the wall,

In remembrance

of Mr. William Turner, late of this place :
and of Catharine, (for more than fifty-six years)
his entirely beloved wife.

He was the youngest son of the reverend John Turner
of Somerford Keynes in the county of Wilts :
and died the 21st of August 1769, aged seventy-six years.
She was the second daughter of the reverend Joseph Harrison,
more than sixty-three years minister of this parish :
and died four months after her husband,
and of the same age.

They were a very humane and exemplary pair :
acknowledged THE MOST HIGH in every dispensation :
and kept through life the serious thought of death.

Another tablet is thus inscribed :

Near this Place
rest the Remains of
Mrs. JANE NICHOLLS,
Daughter of
Mr. WILLIAM TURNER
of this Town, deceased. She died
Decem. 19th, 1773, Aged 47.

THO-

THOMAS, the Son of
THOMAS and JANE NICHOLLS,
died June 19th, 1782, Aged 32.

On a small tablet of white marble,
Erected to the Memory of
WILLIAM HEWER
Common Brewer of this Town,
Whose Remains were deposited near this Place.
He died Jan^y 24th, 1792,
Aged 57 Years.

A table of white marble, rolled up at one corner
like a skin of parchment, bears this inscription:

JONATHAN SKINN
who living was esteemed,
and whose Death was regretted
by all who knew him,
was buried near this Place
the 27th day of Jan^y 1791.

Against the wall in the south porch is this humble memorial:

Under your Feet lyeth the Body of William
Cletherow, Gent. an humble Penitent, who thoughte
himselſe unworthy of the lowest Place in the House
of God. He departed this Life the 8th day of
November 1680.

On a brass plate, fixed to a grey marble, a man in armour, and round the edges,

----- Merton Armiger qui obiit die
Sti Laurentii MCCCXXXVIII cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen.

On a plain marble table against the wall,

In remembrance

of Mr. William Turner, late of this place :
and of Catharine, (for more than fifty-six years)
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was buried near this Place
the 27th day of Jan^y 1791.

Against the wall in the south porch is this humble memorial :

Under your Feet lyeth the Body of William Cletherow, Gent. an humble Penitent, who thoughte himselfe unworthy of the lowest Place in the House of God. He departed this Life the 8th day of November 1680.

The tradition is, that Mr. Cletherow had killed a man, and was unhappy ever afterwards.

In the church-yard, on a handsome raised tomb,
defended by iron palisadoes,

Huic Tumulo mandati sunt Cineres

Ioannis Adye Generosi

Filii Edvardi & Esteræ Adye

Quorum exuviæ juxta requiescunt,
innocui, probi, bonis Literis inbuti,
Turbamq; fugientis.

Obiit 26^o Martii A. D. 1745 Ætatis suæ 68.

Hic etiam sepulta est Maria

Ioannis Adye uxor charissima

Et Edvardi Foyle de Somerford Keyns in Agro
Wiltonienfi Arm.

Filia valde deploranda :

E vita excessit 24^o Februarii A. D. 1724 Ætatis
suæ 43.

Idem quoque Tumulus continet

Quicquid mortale fuit Mariæ Ainge

Uxoris Ricardi Ainge de Lechlade in Comitatu
Glocestrienfi Generosi

Et Ioannis Adye sororis non indignæ

Obiit 30^o Maii A. D. 1744 Ætatis suæ 71.

On the north side of the tomb,

Consanguineorum Affiniumq; juxta Exuvias
voluerunt et suas jacere

Richmondus Day

de

de Civitate Bristoliensi Mercator eximius
Vir Iustitiæ pertinax, fidusq; Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ
Discipulus,

Et Maria Conjux ejus dilectissima
Unicaq; Ricardi & Mariæ Ainge
et nequaquam impar Filia

Hos Animo, Pietate Morumq; Suavitate pares
Annis plusquam quadraginta
domesticas Virtutes exercendo
et Amore mutuo peractis

Mors eodem fere Tempore corripuit:

Uxor a vita decessit 29^o Iunii A. D. 1758 Ætatis
suæ 63.

Maritus 19^o Augusti A. D. 1758 Ætatis
suæ 70.

Hunc Tumulum

Parentibus indulgentissimis Consanguineisq; sacrum
Filius, Nepos, jussit extrui

1759.

The Arms of Adey are, *Azure, a fess dancetty between three cherubims display'd Or.*—Ange. *Azure, a chevron ermine between three crosses formy argent.*—Day. *Ermine, on a chief indented azure two eaglets display'd Or.*

* * * * *

Thus ends our *Obituary*.-----It is observable, that the greater part among the better conditions in life procure interment in churches; but the Greeks and Romans, and according to St. Chrysostom, the antient

tient Christians, would not suffer the dead to be buried even within their cities. At length, terrified with the idea of their bodies lying in the open fields after death, the people desired interment within the city walls, then in church-yards, and Constantine the Great was peculiarly favored to be interred in the church-porch.

When afterwards the doctrine of *Purgatory* got footing, some fanciful Christians entertained an opinion, that the souls of the deceased might receive some alleviation of pain in that intermediate state, as it was feigned, by their respective bodies lying in the church; and the notion was not discountenanced by those who derived emoluments from the practice. But becoming more and more in use, some were greatly offended, as thinking it altogether incongruous for the dead to lie where the living occasionally assembled; and it was at length decreed in several ecclesiastical councils, and by one of arch-bishop Lanfranc's canons, "*That the bodies of the deceased be not buried in churches.*" But this prohibition, probably, was neither long nor strictly observed; for the superstition was flattering, and carried with it a distinction for which the rich were willing to pay, and so by degrees it has pretty generally prevailed.

Some of the old Latin inscriptions, before the reformation, begin with *Ora pro nobis*,—*Ora pro anima*, &c. And some English ones run in the same strain, as, *Pray for the soul* [of such a one.] This arose from

from a principle held by the Romish church, that prayers for the dead are availing.

The memorials which we have selected bear a very small proportion to the whole ; and it may be difficult in some instances to assign the rule which determined our choice. Some have recommended themselves by their antiquity,—by the family arms which accompany them,—by the importance of the deceased when living, and a few, indeed a very few, by other circumstances. Perhaps there are some drawn with the warm pencil of consanguinity and friendship, and exhibit very flattering characters of the deceased, but even such are useful lessons to the living ;—they serve at least to show us *What manner of men we ought to be.*

Mankind are everywhere solicitous to perpetuate the memory of the dead : Some have attempted to preserve the body, others to keep alive the name ; but in vain do we guard against oblivion, for there is no antidote against the opiate of time. Of the former, the Egyptians perhaps have made the boldest attempts, but those mummies which time and Cambyfes have spared, avarice hath consumed ; mummy becomes merchandise, Mizraim cures wounds, and Pharaoh is sold for balsams.

Duration in name depends so much on accident, that all expedients must ultimately fail. To succeeding ages, the greater part of mankind must shortly
be

be as tho' they had never been,—happy to have their names found in the Book of Life, the register of God, tho' not in the record of man. Fair deserts and noble acts are the best monuments; but to be content that futurity should barely know that there once lived such a person, seems a frigid ambition.

Monuments and memorials indicate respect for the dead, and gratify the living, but are of little or no estimation in Christianity; for the Christian religion insures that PERSONAL PERPETUITY, compared with which all memorials dwindle into nothing. We have passed over the bulk of them, consisting of mere names, and dates of coming into the world and going out of it, which we think would contribute very little to the reader's entertainment: But those which we have selected are sufficient to impress the mind that is not wholly torpid and insensible, with this very IMPORTANT and AWFUL TRUTH,  THAT IT CANNOT BE LONG ERE THE EYE WHICH SHALL HEREAFTER READ THIS, AS WELL AS THE HAND WHICH NOW WRITES IT, MUST MINGLE WITH THE DEAD, AND MOULDER INTO DUST!!!

CHAP. VII.

Of Charitable Institutions, Taxes, Population, &c.

THE many charitable donations to the inhabitants of this place induce poor persons to gain settlements here. The several benefactions are arranged under the following heads:— 1. For augmenting the benefice, repairing and ornamenting the church, for reading prayers every day, for occasional sermons, &c. 2. Free Schools,—3. Hospitals,—4. Gifts to the poor.

1. *For Augmenting the Curacy, Repairing and Ornamenting the Church, for Catechising, Sermons, &c.*

Dr. William Clarke, formerly dean of Winchester, having devised certain lands and tithes in the parish of Tillingham, in the county of Essex, in trust, among other things, to augment ten small ecclesiastical benefices with 30 *l. per ann.* each for ever; and Dr. Henry Compton, bishop of London, and the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, having the nomination of six of those benefices, declared they would assign this charity to such market-towns as would

settle an equal revenue on their minister. And the inhabitants of the town of Cirencester, with the assistance of others, having raised the sum of 619*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* by free contribution, and with 600*l.* of the said money purchased an annuity for their minister of 30*l.* a year, charged on the tithing of Oakley, in this parish; the said trustees then appointed Cirencester to be one of those benefices so to be augmented, by an instrument dated Jan. 17th, 1698. But by a deficiency in the profits of the trust estate, from inundations and other accidents, the annual payments to the respective ministers, from the first commencement in 1699, have sometimes fallen under, tho' sometimes exceeded, 15*l.* a year. The surplus of the money (19*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*) was given to the minister towards defraying his expenses in settling the augmentation. The principal contributors to this laudable benefaction, were Sir Robert Atkyns jun. knight, who gave 100*l.* Thomas Master, esq; 100*l.* Mrs. Bridget Smith, a daughter of sir William Master, knight, 100*l.* Mrs. Winifred Master, 50*l.* Mrs. Anne Williams, 43*l.* Sir Benjamin Bathurst, knight, 20*l.* Sir Jonathan Raymond, knight, 20*l.* Sir Richard Onslow, baronet, 10*l.* Sir Richard Howe, baronet, 10*l.* John Willet, clothier, 20*l.* Bernard Ballinger, 20*l.* John Coxe, clerk, rector of North Cerney, 10*l.* Ralph Willet, clerk, rector of Stratton, 10*l.* Robert Brereton, gent. 10*l.* Other contributions were from 5*l.* to 10*s.* each.

'Till

'Till about this time there was no vicarage-house. The inhabitants first purchased a lease of the present house; afterwards William George, esq; gave the quit rent of it, and in the year 1708, Mrs. Rebecca George, his widow, gave the fee of it for ever.

To the Church, &c.

The large, handsome Gallery, on the north side of the church, was built, in 1706, at the expense of Allen Bathurst, esq; afterwards Earl Bathurst. That at the entrance of St. Catharine's chapel was erected by sir Anthony Hungerford.

The Organ was purchased with the contributions of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.

The two large Silver Flaggons, used at the communion, were given by Edward Dixon, esq; in the year 1434; William George, esq; and his wife, gave the two Plates for collecting the offerings; Mr. John Adye gave the gilt strainer for the chalice; and Mrs. Bridget Smith, and others (whose names are either forgotten, or who chose to conceal them) furnished the remainder of the noble service of plate with which this church is accommodated.

The best bible and common prayer book were given by Thomas Powell, esq; and his wife; and the marble font was presented by the female inhabitants of the town.

For the ornamenting and repairing of the church, there is a revenue of 67*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* a year, This

revenue arises chiefly from houses within the town, and a close in the tithing of Chesterton, given by John Jones, and other benefactors, whose names have not been transmitted down to us; about 22*l.* of which is laid out in repairs, and the remainder expended in salaries, except 4*l.* paid to the minister, and 8*l.* to the master of the free Grammar School, as directed by a decree in chancery 1 Jac. 1.

Mrs. Catherine Cripps, who died in 1790, by her will, left 50 *l.* for ornamenting the church, which sum was soon after expended in collecting the painted glass from several of the mutilated windows, and, (together with such new painted glass as was necessary to complete the design) arranging and placing the figures in the beautiful great window at the west end. That being so generally admired,

Mrs. Williams, relict of the late John Williams, of Panthowell, in the county of Carmarthen, esq; (whose surviving daughter and heiress married the Rev. William-Shippen Willes, perpetual curate of this parish) is now employing workmen, at her own expense, to ornament the great chancel window, in like manner, with the painted glass which remained dispersed in the other windows.

For Sermons, Prayers, and Catechising.

1587, Philip Marner gave 6*s.* 8*d.* for ever, for a sermon on the first Friday in clear Lent.

1607, Sir Giles Fettiplace gave an annuity of 20*s.* out of lands in Eastington; half for a sermon on the

5th

5th of November, and half for ringing on the same day, and for mending the ropes.

John Coxwell, esq; gave 20s. a year for two sermons in Christmas tide and Lent.

1618, Jeffry Bath, who had been bailiff of the town, gave 6s. 8d. for a sermon on Ascension-day.

1637, Sir Thomas Roe, of Cranford in Middlesex, gave 2l. for a sermon or prayers on the 13th of September, for ever.

1639, George Monox, esq; gave 8l. *per ann.* for a sermon on the first Wednesday in every month.

1681, Mrs. Mapson, a native of the town, gave 10s. for a sermon on St. Andrew's day.

1695, John Master, M. D. gave 200l. one half of the income of which to the minister for ever, for reading morning prayers; the other half to poor house-keepers not receiving alms.

Mrs. Rebecca Powell gave 10l. a year to the minister, for catechising the children, and for expounding the catechism; and 2l. a year to provide candles necessary for that service.

Mrs. Hannah Ashwell gave 10l. the interest whereof for a sermon on the 30th of January for ever; but the principal money is now lost. She also gave 10l. more, the interest whereof to be divided between the minister and parish clerk, for a psalm, with *Gloria Patri*, to be sung every Monday at Morning Prayers.

Nicholas Edwards gave to the minister the interest of 5l. for ever.

The

The large Engine for extinguishing fire was given by sir Benjamin Bathurst. That of a more modern construction, built by Newsham, was presented to the town by the two representatives; the Honourable Mr. Henry Bathurst, (afterwards earl Bathurst, and Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain) and Thomas Master, esq. The small one was purchased by the inhabitants of the town.

2. *Free Schools.*

Here are three Free Schools; a Grammar-school, a Blue-coat school, and a Yellow-coat school.

The Free Grammar School.

Thomas Ruthall, bishop of Durham, a native of this town, whom we have already noticed to have been a benefactor to the church, built and founded this school. The master has a good house kept in repair for him, and besides 8*l.* a year paid out of a house, (late the George inn, in Gosditch ward) as directed by a decree in chancery 1. Jac. 1. queen Mary endowed the school with 20*l.* a year out of the exchequer, which bounty was afterwards confirmed by queen Elizabeth. The master was formerly appointed by feoffees, but about forty years ago, at the time of a violent contest in electing representatives for the borough, a grant of the mastership was procured from the lord chancellor, and the master, who had been appointed by the feoffees as usual, was expelled, and the office has been filled
by

by the lord chancellor ever since, but with what propriety we pretend not to determine. However, we are credibly informed, that the very persons who were instrumental in setting aside the feoffees choice, have since greatly *doubted*, at least, of the rectitude of the measure. The Rev. John Washbourn, D. D. is the present master, who resides in the house, and receives the salary, but we are sorry to say that he has not had a scholar for a long course of time. For several years after his appointment, the school was of good reputation, and well attended, and tho' it is our duty to notice this great change, we assign no positive cause, lest we should be mistaken. It may be safer, perhaps, to take the negative side; and in justice to the master, on one hand, we can truly say, that it happens not from his want of abilities; nor, on the other, does it appear to us to proceed from an indifference to learning in the inhabitants, who are desirous of giving their children education, and who now send them to other schools. Whatever may be the cause, we lament that this little seminary of learning should by any means be rendered useless, in a place where the want of school education is so discernable in the rising generation. Without making any particular application, we subjoin a very sensible observation of Mr. Hutton's, who, speaking of the Blue School at Birmingham, says, "it is supported by annual contribution, and by collection made after sermon twice a year. And it is worthy of remark, that those institutions which

“ which are immediately upheld by the temporary
“ hand of the giver, flourish in continual spring, and
“ become real benefits to society; whilst those which
“ enjoy a perpetual income, are often tinctured
“ with supineness, and dwindle into obscurity. The
“ first usually answer the purpose of the living, the
“ latter seldom that of the dead.”

The Blue School.

This school, for cloathing twenty boys and twenty girls, and teaching them to read and to write, was set up in 1714, with monies which had been given at several times to teach children to read, by the inhabitants of the town and their friends: But Thomas Powell, esq; and Rebecca his wife, were the principal benefactors. In the year 1718, he endowed it with 15*l.* a year, part of an annuity for 99 years, paid out of the exchequer; and a moiety of the profits of Maskelyne's Ham, in Cricklade. And the court of chancery, in the year 1737, appropriated 20*l.* a year, out of the estates bequeathed to Mrs. Powell for erecting and endowing a charity school or schools in this parish, for the support of this school; and in 1744, appointed the produce of 562*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to be paid yearly for the benefit of this school, as a provsional supply, after the expiration of the annuity out of the exchequer. The children are elected into it by the minister for the time being, seldom under eight years old, or above eleven, and they continue in it not more than three years.

The

The Yellow School.

This school was erected and endowed in virtue of the will of Mrs. Rebecca Powell, and under the direction of the court of chancery, for the clothing, maintenance, and teaching to read and cast accounts, and for the bringing up of Twenty boys inhabitants of the town of Cirencester, in the art of frame-work knitting; and for clothing Twenty girls, and teaching them to read, say their catechism and prayers, and to spin.

Mrs. Powell died in the year 1722, and for the confirmation of her will, and the better carrying of it into execution, her trustees applied for the direction of the court of chancery, and a decree was obtained on the 14th of March, 1727. But fresh difficulties arising, the court was applied to a second time, and the trustees laid a scheme for erecting this school before Mr. Thurston, one of the masters in that court, and also a Schedule of the particulars and value of the testatrix's residuary estate, both real and personal, devised and subject to charities. And after expending 53 *l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* of the trust money, and a lapse of about nine years from the first decree, the said master, to whom the cause had been referred, on the 13th of July, 1737, made his report, "That not altogether approving the trustees scheme, he had framed another." The master's scheme was approved and confirmed by the court; and as we think the nature of the institution cannot be better ex-

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plained

plained than by the report itself, we have subjoined it as follows;

First, That a convenient strong house in the town of Cirencester, in the county of Gloucester, be purchased, which, with the necessary alterations, and proper embellishments to perpetuate the memory of the benefactress, together with the furniture, and the frames hereafter mentioned, may cost about 1000*l*. which shall be fit and convenient for the lodging, maintenance, and education of Twenty boys inhabitants of the said town, who are proposed to be bred up and instructed in the art and mystery of weaving worsted stockings; in order for which there shall be a master appointed, to teach them to write and cast accounts, and there shall be bought a sufficient number of frames, and a proper person employed to instruct them in the said trade; and after they are become perfect therein, to set up in the said town at least one boy in every year, by giving him a frame and a certain quantity of worsted to begin with, not exceeding the value of 5*l*. and that such boy be obliged to take an apprentice out of the town workhouse, on such terms as the trustees and governors shall think proper; and shall also give a bond to them, or to whom they shall appoint, to take no other apprentice, nor to dispose of his frame for seven years, and to remain in the town during that time. The trustees and governors to find worsted, and the produce of the work of these children to be from time to time accounted for, and applied for buying frames and worsted for the boys that are to be set up, and then as they think proper towards augmenting the charity.

Secondly, That every boy who, after a sufficient time of trial, shall be found unfit to prosecute the said trade, shall be bound out apprentice to husbandry by the trustees and governors, out of the charity money, and another boy immediately

diately elected into the school in his stead. And the placing out every such boy, including all expences, shall not exceed 5*l*.

Thirdly, That there shall be clothed, and taught to read, say their catechism and prayers, and to spin, at the expence of the said charity, by a dame properly qualified, Twenty girls inhabitants of the said town.

Fourthly, That the lord of the manor of Cirencester for the time being, Thomas Master, esq; the Honourable Henry Bathurst, esq; the present members of parliament for the said town, the churchwardens of the parish, and the two chief constables of Cirencester for the time being, together with the trustees themselves, be constituted and appointed governors of the said charity; and that upon the death of the said Thomas Master and Henry Bathurst, or either of them, the other governors shall, within one month after their respective deaths, elect a new governor or governors in his or their place or room; and that the age, qualification, election, removal, putting out apprentice, letting up, and dismissal of the boys, intended to be maintained, educated, and instructed in the said art and mystery as aforesaid, and of the twenty girls who are to be taught to read, say their catechism and prayers, and to spin; the master, dames, and other teachers and servants, the economy of the house and schools; and the methods of keeping the accounts and manner of making and altering rules and orders for the good government of the whole, shall be vested in the said trustees and governors, or a major part of them, present at any meeting for that purpose.

Fifthly, That it shall be the duty of the steward, at the desire of any three of the trustees and governors, signified in writing under their hands, to summons all the governors to the school upon any especial occasion, and to give timely notice of the day and time of their meeting; but the 17th day of September, the day of the date of the will of the

foundress, or when that falls upon a Sunday, the Tuesday following, at Eleven o'Clock, shall be the day and hour of the annual meeting of the governors for auditing the accounts of the year, and for examining into and adjusting all other affairs relating to the charity.

Sixthly, And that the two Schedules hereto annexed, may be taken and considered as part of the said scheme. All which I humbly certify and submit to the judgment of this honourable court.

The first Schedule to which my report refers.

Real Estate.

Northcot Farm, in the parish of Preston,	}	L	S.	D.
leased out for a term of years of which two only are to come, subject to all repairs and payments. Yearly rent,				
		62	00	00

North Mead, in the parish of Cricklade,	}	16	15	00
let for three years subject to all payments,				

An estate at Eastington, leased out for three lives, of which one is dead, under the reserved rent of	}	1	11	08

Two tenements in the same parish leased out for three lives. Rent,	}	0	12	00

Two other tenements in the same parish let from year to year, subject to repairs. Rent,	}	2	00	00

A house and garden, little close, and two or three acres of common field land, in the parish of Badginton, leased out for three lives, of which only one is living. Reserved Rent,	}	0	04	00

Thirteen houses in Cirencester, leased out for lives, renewable upon a stated fine, the reserved rents of which come to	}	28	12	10

Seven houses and six little shops in the said town, leased out some for lives and some for years absolute, the rents come to	}	20	11	03

Twenty seven other tenements in the said town subject to all payments and repairs, the rents of which come to	}	92	17	00

Carried forward,	225	03	09
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CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, &c. 315

	£	S.	D.
Brought over	225	03	09
A garden in the great Churchyard. Rent,	0	10	00
The little Churchyard, let out in several } parts upon long leases. Rents,	0	13	06
	226	07	03

Over and above what are before set down, there are ten small parcels of land in the parish of Maisey Hampton leased out for upwards of 900 years to come, for which a couple of Rent Fowls yearly is only payable. And also the ground on which lately stood a dwelling house in Dyer-street, in Cirencester: with a garden and close adjoining, Copyhold of Inheritance.

Personal Estate.

In the hands of the defendant Harrison, and the executors of the late trustee Charles Cox, Esq; deceased, in money and securities, as appears by the master's Report made in these causes the 1st of December, 1735,

Arrears of rent due at Lady Day, 1735,	546	01	09
Growing rents from Lady Day, 1735, to Lady Day 1738, supposing no losses, will amount to - - - - -	676	01	09
Interest money upon the securities to the same time, - - - - -	315	00	00

5443 13 07

Out of which said sum of 5443*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* the sum of 1000*l.* to be laid out for purchasing the house, fitting up the same, and for furniture and frames for the boys, according to the said scheme: and also to be deducted out of the said personal estate the sum of 468*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* to pay a legacy and interest, of the trustees remaining unpaid, and allowing for the payment of the costs of these suits the sum of 531*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* making together the sum of

2000 00 00

Then the total of the personal estate will be

3443 13 07
Which

Which said sum of 3443 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> being	}	<i>L.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>D.</i>
placed out at Interest at four per cent. per		137	12	00
ann. will bring in yearly - - - - -				
Real Estate per ann. as above,		226	07	03
		<u>363</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>03</u>

Out of which Income is to be yearly paid	}			
for catechising and candles, and to the six				
almswomen, according to the will of Mrs.				
Powell, 18 <i>l.</i> a year, and to the manors of		18	09	02
Cirencester and Eastington, 9 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>				

Remains for answering the Scheme, - -		345	10	01
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The second Schedule to which my Report annexed refers, containing an account how the annual sum of 345 *l.* 10 *s.* 1 *d.* mentioned to be remaining in the first Schedule, is to be applied.

For the maintenance of twenty boys, in-	}			
cluding a master and mistress - - -		114	08	00

For the clothing of the twenty boys		22	10	00
-------------------------------------	--	----	----	----

For a man and his wife, the man to teach	}			
the children to write and cast accounts, to				
keep the accounts of the house, and act				
under the trustees and governors as steward		30	00	00
to the estates, and the woman to buy				
provisions and look after the house,				

To a dame for teaching twenty girls to	}			
read, say their catechism and prayers, and		6	00	00
to spin, at 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per quarter,				

For the clothing twenty girls,		22	10	00
--------------------------------	--	----	----	----

To buy books for the use of the school,		3	00	00
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To a master to teach the boys to weave	}			
stockings, - - - - -		30	00	00

For placing out two apprentices yearly to	}			
husbandry, out of boys intractable to the		10	00	00
stocking business, - - - - -				

To a woman to be assistant in cleaning	}			
the house, and dressing meat,		10	00	00

Carried forward,		248	08	00
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Brought.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	248	08	00
To the churchwardens for the time being, to be added to the other standing bene- factions already given for poor children's schooling in the town,	20	00	00
For the entertainment of the governors at their annual meetings, - - -	2	10	00
	270	18	00
Remains for repairs, taxes, payments, and all other incidents, losses and expences, besides fines for filling up leases,	74	12	01
	345	10	01

Agreeable to this scheme, it appears by the governors books, that twenty boys were admitted into the school, a master provided to teach them the business, and all the other offices filled, in the year 1740. The business commenced with only one deviation from the scheme. As there is no charge for worsted in the first accounts, we apprehend that the master provided it, and for some years had the benefit of the work. This deviation from the proposed scheme was very judicious, for thus it became the interest as well as the duty of the master to take care to have the goods well made, and to find a market for them.

The first entry in the books, to the credit of the charity for the boys work, is in 1748, in that year, and for the four succeeding ones, the master paid 10*l.* a year.

The next eight years from 1753 to 1760, nothing paid.

Brought

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	50	00	00
For four years, from 1761 to 1764 } 20l. a year, - - - - -	80	00	00
In 1765 nothing paid.			
For six years, from 1766 to 1771 } inclusive, 126l. a year, - - - - -	756	00	00
For two years, viz. 1772 and } 1773, 100l. a year, - - - - -	200	00	00
For part of 1774, when the ma- } ster died, - - - - -	90	15	09

The reason of this irregularity does not appear.

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The first master continued in that office for thirty four years. During this period the rents of the real estates were something improved; but the personals, notwithstanding an aid of near twelve hundred pounds for work, were reduced; the lads brought up in the school sought their bread in other places, and some by other means. In short, the prospect was unpromising, and the town became dissatisfied.

Two other masters were appointed in succession, under whose management, from indolence and ignorance, things grew worse, and the goods were much complained of. It may hardly be credited, tho' true it is, that in thirteen years, from 1776 inclusive, the value of all the goods worked up by the master and boys, and brought to account, over and above the charges for dying, spinning, and the raw materials for making them, does not amount to 50l. a year, on the average, whilst the master received above 30l.

30*l.* a year for his salary. — *A rare instance of Industry in a master and twenty boys!*—Hence the governors found it necessary to procure better assistance.

At length in 1788, Mr. *Samuel Webb* was chosen, who is the present master; and we can with pleasure say, that the manufacture is brought into the greatest credit, and the income considerably improved. The rents of the real estate are advanced to 378*l.* 12*s.* *per ann.* and the yearly produce of the personals to 115*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* making together 494*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* and under the auspices of the governors, and the good conduct of the same master, there is reason to expect still greater improvements. Increased rents, and fines for renewing leases, may do something, but it is clearly demonstrable, that the *maximum*, or highest extent of improvement, is to be attained only by extending the manufacture: and now it has acquired great credit, with a continuation of the same exertions, and a trifling expense, but with a little modification, it will almost naturally rise to its utmost limit, and that expense will be repaid, with great interest, in a very short time.

Out of the present income, deducting 44*l.* for catechizing, candles and charities, as specified in the schedule, there remain 450*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* besides fines for renewing leases, to support this noble establishment, and for defraying taxes and repairs.

There are at present only ten boys in the house at the business. Other ten are clothed and edu-

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cated

cated, but not maintained. And as often as one goes out of the working class, one of the other ten, or one newly admitted, is taken to the business to keep up the number. We suppose this measure was adopted, from a notion that the putting of twenty to the business would increase the expenses; but with good instruction and good looking after, which are always presumed, the contrary would be the case.

Hospitals and Almshouses.

Saint John's Hospital.

This Hospital, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was founded by king Henry the First, soon after he had completed the building of the stately abbey of Cirencester: and king Edward III. by his charter bearing date the 17th year of his reign, annexed the mastership of it to the abbat and convent, and their successors for ever. It is situated in a place called the Pane, or Pean, on the north east side of Gloucester-street, and is a curious antient structure, supported by arches springing from round pillars, half buried under ground, not by the pillars sinking, as we apprehend, but from the floor on which they stand having been raised, from time to time, to prevent the place from being flooded from the street, along which a branch of the river Churn formerly ran. Thomas Cobham, bishop of Worcester, granted a license for erecting a chantry in it, where

where divine service was performed, and it had a bell, which we take to have been the service-bell, hanging in it within our memory; but the bell was a stronger temptation to avarice than it could withstand, and was taken down and sold by the master of the hospital many years ago. From these circumstances, joined with the authority of Leland, we have elsewhere considered this building as one of the three churches mentioned by that great antiquary to have belonged to the town.

The hospital consists of various appartments, six of which have been usually reserved for the hospitalers or almsfolks, and the rest let out at a rent; but the whole building having been unfortunately neglected, and suffered to fall into a ruinous condition, it was thought advisable by the trustees, in the year 1792, to borrow a sum of money to enable them to build six new cottages, upon the hospital land, lying contiguous on the north bank of the rivulet in Spitalgate Lane. These cottages, as soon as the debt is paid off, are to be appropriated to the accommodation of the almspeople, but these, as well as an upper appartment in the antient building, are at present let out at annual rents.

The revenues of the hospital at present amount to between thirty and forty pounds a year, arising chiefly from the reserved rents of houses in the town of Cirencester; but there belong to it also, six acres of land in the parish of Preston, one acre in St. John's meadow, and about three acres of meadow

called Easington's Close, both in the parish of Cirencester, twenty-three acres in Stratton-field, and three very small pieces of ground, *viz.* one in Calmesden, one in Bisley, and one in Ewen: and both the lands and houses are leased out on lives, at reserved rents.

About half a century ago, a gentleman of the town of Cirencester surreptitiously obtained a grant of the mastership of this hospital under the privy seal, subverting, for a time, the government of it by trustees, as established by antient usage. He it was who sold the service-bell, as already mentioned; and not twenty years ago, he also granted a lease of the ground called Easington's Close, receiving a large fine, which might have been sufficient to have put the Hospital in good repair, but we are left to conjecture what became of the money, as there is no entry of it in the books. After the death of that gentleman, a *caveat* was entered against any subsequent appointment by government, and the management of this little charity is again reverted to trustees as formerly, who are the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the parish. Each of the poor people receives 4*l.* 9*s.* *per annum.*

Saint Lawrence's Hospital.

This hospital is said to have been founded for two poor widows, by Edith, lady of the manor of Wiggold, but at what time is uncertain. It is situated on the west side of Gloucester-street, and gave name to the ward in which it stands. It consisted originally
of

of two cottages, to which another, and a much more eligible one, has been lately added by the late Earl Bathurst, who was the governor. This latter was built with monies raised by fines for the renewal of leases of lands and houses held under the hospital, and it is endowed, like the two others, for the benefit of a third widow.

There was a survey of the lands and tenements belonging to this charity in 1722, when the particular estates belonging to it were entered in a book, of which the following is a short account:

One piece of meadow land, about an acre, adjoining to the brook running from Baunton on one side, and lands of Thomas Master, Esq; near the old bowling-green on the other sides.

Land in Baunton-field, in lieu of which, at the inclosing of that field since the survey, two acres, two roods, and twenty perches, adjoining to the Whiteway, have been allotted to it.

Lands in Stratton-field, in lieu of which, when the inclosing took place, also since the survey, eight acres and one rood adjoining to Overly wood, were also allotted to the hospital.

And there are two acres of arable land, (thirty perches long and ten broad) in the Barton field, opposite the mile-stone in the road leading from Cirencester to Minchin Hampton, set apart for the hospital, in lieu of several little pieces of land lying dispersedly in the same field.

There

There are, besides, two gardens and twenty one houses in the town of Cirencester, all which premises are leased out on lives and reserved rents, which, at the time of the said survey, amounted to 10*l.* 7*s.* but are since increased to 18*l.* 13*s.* *per annum.* Earl Bathurst is the present governor. The grants run in the name of the *Governor and sisters of the hospital of St. Lawrence.* The three sisters receive 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* each *per annum.*

St. Thomas's Hospital.

This Hospital was erected by sir William Nottingham, who lived in the reign of king Henry the Fourth, and endowed it with a rent-charge of 6*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* *per annum*, out of an estate in the parish of Thornbury, in the county of Gloucester, which is divided between four poor weavers; and three of them have each a little dwelling or apartment, in the hospital, which is a strong, low stone building in St. Thomas Street. See P. 164.

Almshouses.

In the year 1620, Mrs. Elizabeth Bridges gave an almshouse in Dollar-street for six poor widows, and 1*s.* a piece weekly for ever.

William George, esq; and Rebecca his wife, in the year 1702, gave six tenements and gardens in Leause-lane, for six poor widows; and assigned two other tenements in Cricklade-street, one charged with 6*l.* a year to buy garments for the widows, and what

what remains of the produce of them to keep the houses in repair.

Thomas Powell, esq; gave a moiety of the rent of Maskelyne's Ham to the same widows; and Rebecca his widow gave them 20s. a year each, to buy them firing.

John Morfe gave two dwellings in Gloucester-street for two poor widows.

For apprenticing Children.

Sir Thomas Roe gave a rent-charge of 25*l.* a year out of lands at Moufwell in this county, 40s. of which for a sermon, as already mentioned, the rest to put out poor children of this parish apprentices, on the 13th of September annually; and once in three or four years, a boy out of the parish of Rendcombe, if presented.

Mr. Thomas Perry gave 100*l.* and his son Mr. Timothy Perry gave 12*l.* which sums were laid out in the purchase of a freehold estate in the parish of Upton St. Leonard, near Gloucester.

Richard George, esq; gave a rent-charge of 3*l.* a year, out of a house in Gloucester-street; William Forder, late of Amney Crucis, gave 20*l.* Thomas Powell, esq; gave 40*l.* James Clutterbuck, late citizen of Exeter, gave 100*l.* James Shewell, silkman, gave 10*l.* and Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, in 1726, gave 100*l.* the annual produce of all which to be apply'd to the putting out poor children apprentices.

To be given or lent in Money to the Poor.

In the year 1587, Philip Marner gave 20*l.* and in 1613, Henry Hill gave 30*l.* to be lent to tradesmen without interest.

The same Philip Marner, in 1587, gave a rent-charge of 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on a house in Abbat-street; 6*s.* 8*d.* of which to the Minister, as aforesaid, the rest to the poor. Alice Avening, in 1498, gave a house in Dollar-street, of 40*s.* a year; John Weobley the same year, gave a house, since exchanged for an annuity of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* charged on the house in Dyer-street, late the Greyhound inn; William Hooper, in 1605, gave a house in Little Silver-street, of 2*l.* 4*s.* rent; Jeffry Bathe in 1618, gave 2*l.* a year out of a house in Cricklade-street, viz. 6*s.* 8*d.* to the minister as aforesaid, and 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the poor. John Chandler, in 1632, gave a house in Cicely-street of 2*l.* a year; Mr. Humphry Bridges gave a house in Cricklade-street, of 2*l.* a year; George Monox, esq; in 1639, gave five houses in this town, which let at 23*l.* 10*s.* the produce of which (except 8*l.* a year for a monthly sermon, and 6*s.* 8*d.* to be spent) to be given in money to the poor. John Pathe, butcher, in 1641, gave a rent-charge of 4*l.* on a house in Dollar-street, half to decayed butchers and half to the other poor. Rowland Freeman, in 1658, gave a rent-charge of 40*s.* on a house and land now incorporated with earl Bathurst's park. These rents were all given to the use of the poor.

The

The following sums were also given that the annual interest of them may be apply'd to the same use.

In 1625, Samuel Coxwell, gent. gave 50*l*. 1639, George Monox, esq; gave 100*l*. 1645, Sir Henry Pratt, of London, baronet, gave 100*l*. William Blomer, of Hatherop, gent. 40*l*. Mrs. Chambers gave 50*l*. Others, in small contributions, gave 53*l*. Which sums were all laid out in the purchase of land in South Cerney, except 20*l*. part of Mr. Blomer's gift, with 10*l*. of which a house in Gloucester-street was purchased for the poor.

Thomas Damsel gave 100*l*. In 1620, a man who had a lottery here, 40*l*. Mr. Thomas Shermore, of London, 20*l*. Mr. John Stone 20*l*. Robert George, esq; 10*l*. the heirs of Robert, Strange, esq; 10*l*. Mr. Edward Pratt, jun. 10*l*. 1606, Thomas Smith 20*l*.—1615, John May, of Amney St. Mary, 10*l*. Robert Stech, butcher, 10*l*. Edward Church, 20*l*.—1669, Lady Atkynson, of Stowel, 10*l*. 1679, John Oates, clothier, 10*l*.—1680, William Kerby, of London, salter, 10*l*. John Coxwell, esq; 100*l*. The reverend Mr. William Master, 50*l*.—1706, Mrs. Winifred Master 60*l*. Other benefactions, in smaller sums, amounted to 22*l*. 10*s*. Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards gave 30*l*. and four tenements in Castle-street, (which were sold for 60*l*. about the year 1729) the interest to be distributed yearly among four poor families, but these sums, with 100*l*. before mentioned to have been given by her for

apprenticing children, were laid out in the purchase of the church-yard.

In 1774 Jane Overbury gave 50*l.* the interest of which to be given to the poor. In 1784; Mrs. Elizabeth Cripps, by her will, gave 500*l.* old South Sea annuities, the interest of which to be equally divided at Christmas between ten widows, or old unmarried women, who do not receive alms of the parish.

John Day, Esq; by his deed December 21, 1779, gave to trustees therein named and their successors for ever, 90 acres of land in Pinkney in the county of Wilts, and the great and small tythes belonging to the rectory or parsonage of Pinkney impropriate, then in possession of William Deverell, in trust, (after discharging the land-tax, and all expences) to pay 1*l.* 12*s.* on the 1st of February yearly, to the churchwardens of Easton Gray, for the poor of that parish; and the rest of the rents and profits of the said estate to be by the trustees distributed among such poor decayed house keepers, of the parishes of Cirencester and Minchin-Hampton, or either of them, professing the religion of the church of England, and not receiving alms, in such proportion as the said John Day should direct; but so that such distribution be made not fewer than four times a year, no person to receive less than 3*l.* nor more than 15*l.* a year.

Eliz.

Eliz. Gurney gave 20*l.* the interest to be distributed to the poor of the presbyterian persuasion. Benjamin Gurney left 20*l.* for the like use.

The following charities are to provide clothing for the poor.

In 1642, Sir Anthony Hungerford gave West-Mead in Amney Crucis. Thomas Perry, senior, in 1673, gave 20*l.* Edward King, in 1692, gave a rent-charge of 2*l.* 9*s.* on two houses in Coxwell-street. Anne Peters gave 20*l.* Nicholas Edwards 40*l.* Sarah Humphris 10*l.* and Frances Peek 5*l.*

The interest of the following donations is to be annually given to the poor in bread.

Mrs. Mary Chambers, daughter^e of Mr Monox, gave 50*l.* Mr. Fettiplace 20*l.* Nicholas Edwards 10*l.* Elizabeth, his widow, 5*l.* and Isaac Tibbet, her father, 20*l.*

Magistracy.

Earl Bathurst and Thomas Master, esq; are Deputy Lieutenants and justices of the peace for the county of Gloucester; and Joseph Cripps and Robert Timbrell, esq^{rs}. and William-Shippen Willes, clerk, are justices of the peace for the said county, and resident in the borough. They hold a sessions on the first Monday in the Month, and Richard Selfe, of Amney Crucis, and William Veel, of Coteswold-House, esq^{rs}. both justices of the peace within the same division, usually attend the session.

Association.

The younger part of the principal inhabitants of the borough, with some others, having obtained his Majesty's approbation, formed themselves into a Military Association in the year 1798, consisting of a corps of upwards of a hundred privates, including sergeants, &c. and put themselves under the command of a captain, and proper subaltern officers. They have no pay, and are at the expense of their uniform, which is very handsome, but government provides arms and accoutrements. This corps is well disciplined, and they make a very military appearance. Their object results from a very laudable principle, to prevent and suppress tumult and riot, and to preserve peace and order within the borough and neighbourhood. The officers are,

Joseph Cripps, esq; Captain.

Edward Cripps, esq; Lieutenant.

John Masters, gent.

William Stevens, gent. } Ensigns.

David Whatley, gent. Adjutant.

Population.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, according to Sir Robert Atkyns, there were near 800 houses and about 4000 inhabitants in this parish. after the small pox had left the town in the year 1741, the inhabitants were found to be 3797: and after

after a severe visitation of the same kind in the year 1758, the people were numbered at 3458. In 1775, an exact account having been taken, the householders were 838, and the inhabitants 3878, besides 110 in the workhouse, making together 3988, something more than four persons and a half to a house. We don't find that the people have been numbered since, but it is supposed that population continues pretty much the same with the last mentioned statement, notwithstanding the war, and other causes of emigration, for there is scarcely a void tenement in the borough.

SOLI DEO GLORIA.

ERRATA.

Page 31 line 20, for *tophic* read *topic*.

41 l. 14, for *for* r. *far*.

42 l. 22 and 30, for *judgement* r. *judgment*.

65 l. 6, for *throught* r. *through*.

139 l. 7, for *church* r. *hospital*.

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